DUDLEY
CHRONICLE

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Street drama

Bus collision causes metal and wood scaffold collapse

See Page 3

Forgotten fields

Book rediscovers Black Country's old pitches

Memory Lane – See Page 18

Gift of life

Nurse donates kidney to help chronically ill niece

See Page 20

HYPOCRISY JIBE ON BENEFIT CUTS

LEADING councillors have been accused of 'hypocritical politics' by failing to follow the results of a consultation when hard-pressed families demanded proposals to cut council tax benefits be scrapped.

But the Labour administration of Dudley Council hit back at their Conservative opponents for voting for even harsher cuts than initially tabled.

Report by Andrew Turton

Thousands of households in Dudley will pay up to an extra £85 a year in council tax under new reforms.

Around 17,000 families would be affected by the changes which will hit those who get help to pay their council tax.

Scrapped

Tory Councillor Tim Wright, speaking at Monday night's full council meeting, said: "Talk about disingenuous politics, or hypocritical politics – the party opposite said they would go out and consult, and consult and consult, which they have done.

"Have they listened, no."

It comes after the government scrapped the national council tax benefit scheme in April, leaving local authorities to decide whether residents should get money off.

Councils have been given a 10 per cent cut in funding for the new scheme.

Councillors drew up proposals on whether to absorb council tax cuts, or reduce payouts by either 8.5 per cent or 20 per cent.

Around three quarters of people who responded to the consultation demanded payouts remained at the same level.

But Dudley Council's leadership is pursuing plans to implement a 8.5 per cent cut to benefits payouts – with pensioners, disabled and children, pensioners and lone parents with a child under five receiving some protection.

This arrangement could be extended past 2015 but may also rise to 20 per cent.

Opposition Conservative party leader, Councillor Patrick Harley, said the authority should have looked at a cut of 20 per cent immediately.

Councillor Pete Lowe, cabinet member for finance, previously said the council had no option. "It is frustrating and it is not something that we would want to do by choice but we have no option after the decision by the Government," he said.

Ex-health boss gives a warning over clinic

CLOSING a walk-in health centre could be a 'major mistake' unless GPs are guaranteed to pick up the slack, the shadow health secretary has said during a visit to Dudley.

Andy Burnham visited under-threat Holly Hall Clinic, which health bosses are proposing to shut.

Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group believes the £1.4 million contract with health care firm Primecare could be better used giving people longer and later access to their own GPs.

Currently around 50,000 people a year use the clinic, which is in Stourbridge Road. The clinic sees people without an appointment between 8am and 8pm in the week and up to 10pm at weekends.

Mr Burnham, health secretary in the last Labour government, visited the clinic alongside Dudley North MP Ian Austin and Natasha Millward, Labour candidate for Dudley South.

Mr Burnham said: "It's obvious how valued this centre is. We're seeing walk-in centres close all over the country. That's a major mistake because accident and emergency departments are already under extra pressure.

"My message is that they must tread very carefully if they are going to tinker with an established service."

■ See Pages 10 and 11

Ring and Ride facing crisis

STRIKE action is looming at the charity that runs Ring and Ride services. Trade union Unite warns it will consider action over reduced hours for 20 schedulers who handle calls from the public.

West Midlands Special Needs Transport, which runs the door-to-door bus, could lose a chunk of its funding as transport authority Centro makes cuts. Residents can have their say in Dudley on Saturday when Centro chairman Councillor John McNicholas and staff will be in Stone Street Square, from 9am to 3pm.

Police launch drink-drive blitz

MORE than 100 breath tests a day will be carried out in a bid to catch drink-drivers during the Christmas campaign.

Up to three roadside operations will take place across the West Midlands each day as police target law-breakers putting others' safety at risk. West Midlands Police has received the support of charity Crimestoppers, which is offering rewards of up to £200 for information leading to the arrest and prosecution of a driver under the influence of drink or drugs.

Fairytale visitors open grotto

Fairytale VIPs Lucy Evans and Oliver Watton, stars of this year's pantomime at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre officially open Santa's Grotto at Dudley Zoo with a little help from Santa himself and from Echo the Owl

PANTO stars brought a touch of fairytale magic to the grand opening of a traditional Santa's Grotto at Dudley Zoo, watched by hundreds of children and their parents.

Former Coronation Street actress Lucy Evans and her pantomime co-star Oliver Watton visited Dudley Zoo on Tuesday to cut the ribbon on the popular annual attraction

They have the lead roles of Princess Beauty and Prince Daniel in this year's pantomime at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre.

They arrived at the zoo in full fairytale costume to meet with families taking a tour around the grotto, which has been given a Sleeping Beauty theme this year.

They were welcomed to the zoo by Father Christmas and barn owl Echo – with the bird perching on Lucy's arm for the grand opening.

Palace

Part of the 11th century castle has been transformed into Sleeping Beauty's Palace complete with an animal forest, antique spinning wheel and even a wedding scene.

The grotto will run until Christmas Eve with demands for tickets already high.

Lucy, better known as barmaid Lauren Wilson in Coronation Street, said she was very excited to open the grotto.

"This is the fifth year I have played Sleeping Beauty in a production. I have been asked to open a grotto before but this one is extra special," she said.

"It is not often a grotto is actually based in a real castle and that adds an extra touch of magic.

"It has been great meeting with everybody."

Village in CCTV call for watch on gangs

RENEWED calls have been made for CCTV to be installed in Gornal to combat continuing night-time problems with anti-social behaviour.

Plans to install at least one new camera in the village were announced earlier this year to tackle gangs congregating around Abbey Road.

But months later the scheme is still in the pipeline and the equipment, which would be linked to a control centre in Sedgley, is not in place.

Councillor Tim Wright, ward member for the village, said problems with anti-social behaviour were still an 'ongoing concern'.

"Most other places are covered by CCTV so why not Gornal?," he said.

"I am not saying the situation is as bad as it once was but there are still problems around the village during the evening. We keep being told a camera is coming."

Plans for a camera were announced after groups gathered around benches in the village intimidating shoppers and causing a nuisance. Councillors considered removing the benches but decided against it.

Cabinet member for health and wellbeing Councillor Stuart Turner said it was likely to be a matter of 'weeks' before the camera is installed.

Protest over care home

CAMPAIGNERS fighting to protect a care home due to be given away took to Dudley Council House steps to vent their anger on Monday.

Dozens waved placards to condemn cutbacks ahead of a Dudley Council meeting.

New Bradley Hall care home, in Kingswinford, will be released by the council. The council says it wants a 'not-for-profit' organisation to take over and 13 groups have shown interest. Adult services boss Councillor Dave Branwood says the move ensures a future for the Compton Drive home.

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Starving dog hardly had strength to stand

STAFFORDSHIRE bull terrier-boxer cross Lou was skin and bones and barely had the strength to stand by the time RSPCA officials found her in a stinking kitchen – even though a bag of dog food was discovered in the front room.

The man who should have been feeding the dog claimed she was just 'a bit skinny' even though the animal was up to a stone below ideal weight. The ordeal led to behaviour problems which meant the animal had to be put down by the RSPCA.

Usmaan Hussain, aged 24, of Buffery Road, Dudley, admitted causing unnecessary suffering and failing to make sure the animal was provided with a suitable clean environment between April 3 and May 1. Dudley magistrates adjourned sentencing until January 6 for reports.

Mrs Gaynor Sutton, prosecuting, said the RSPCA gained access to an address in Spring Gardens, Dudley, on May 1, where they could see the dog was very thin. RSPCA Inspector Julie Lyons said the property 'stank'.

Mrs Sutton added: "A police officer who attended described the dog as barely able to stand and shaking uncontrollably. The floor was running in urine and the officer formed the impression the dog was eating her own faeces as she was so hungry."

Mrs Sutton said Lou was 'emaciated' but a bag of dog food was found in the front room of the property. Hussain told the RSPCA that the owner had asked him to look after her after moving out because a boiler had broken at the property. He said he 'might have missed the odd day' of feeding her.

Mr Jahangeer Aslam, defending, said Hussain had called the friend, who sometimes also went in to feed Lou, to tell him that the dog was thin.

Mother of victim urges judge not to jail driver

"I STILL wait for Samantha to come to the door – but it doesn't happen," says heartbroken mother Deborah Jennings.

"I look at her picture every night, I can't believe she is not there. I feel like a part of me has died with her."

These are the heartbreaking words of a devastated mother consumed by grief since her beautiful daughter Samantha was tragically taken away in a car crash aged just 26.

But, despite still mourning for her precious girl, Mrs Jennings has bravely shown mercy to Samantha's boyfriend, the man who caused her death.

At Worcester Crown Court last week she asked judge Patrick Thomas QC not to give Thomas Whitehouse an immediate jail term.

Cannabis

Whitehouse, aged 23, of Burns Close in Stourbridge, lost control of his Vauxhall car and crashed into a wall and then a tree on the A449 in Cookley in December last year.

Samantha, who was sat in the front passenger seat, was pronounced dead less than an hour after the crash at 1.15am.

Whitehouse had smoked cannabis but it was unclear when or how much he had consumed and he has no recollection of the crash.

He fractured his pelvis and both legs, one of which had to be amputated as a result of the crash.

While recovering in hospital in January he was visited by footballer David Beckham and actor Ray Winstone.

After pleading guilty to causing death by careless driving and possession of cannabis, Whitehouse was handed a four-month prison sentence, suspended for 12 months, by Judge Patrick Thomas QC.

Report by Alex Ross

During the hearing, Mr Paul Whitfield, prosecuting, said Mrs Jennings did not want Whitehouse to receive an immediate prison sentence.

Judge Thomas said: "She (Mrs Jennings) has expressed a view as to sentence and is entitled to express that view.

"But she can't take that burden from the judge whose task it is to make it."

Mr Gurdeep Garcha, defending, said Mrs Jennings had remained in contact with Whitehouse's family since her daughter's death. At the hearing, she sat next to the defendant's mother.

Mr Garcha said: "They have comforted each other – it speaks volumes about her as a human being.

"She has found it within herself to forgive Whitehouse for what happened."

The court heard how Samantha, a care worker for adults with severe disabilities, had been in a relationship with Whitehouse.

She was the mother of two sons, now aged 10 and nine, from a previous relationship.

Mr Whitfield said: "They had a loving relationship and Samantha Jennings told her mother she was in love with Tom Whitehouse and he treated her better than any other man she had known."

But tragedy was to strike after Whitehouse had taken Samantha to the German market in Birmingham on December 8. On return, they socialised with friends in Stourbridge before going for a drive with Whitehouse's best friend Leander Mock.

Samantha Jennings was thrown from car

Thomas Whitehouse with Samantha

Whitehouse leaves Worcester court

While driving back to Stourbridge on the A449, Whitehouse lost control on a right-hand bend, mounted a curb and rotated, hitting a sandstone wall and then a tree.

Police estimate he was travelling at 76mph. Samantha was found 42ft from the car.

Mr Mock was found wandering near the scene of the crash. He suffered minor injuries. None of the people in the car were wearing seat belts.

Mr Whitfield described the effect of Samantha's death on the family. He said: "At 4am Deborah Jennings got the news of the tragedy, her expression was her life then fell apart. When the boys were woken up they knew something was wrong. They were sat down and told their mother had gone to heaven to be with grandad."

Mr Whitfield read parts of a victim impact statement made by Mrs Jennings.

In it, she said: "I dream of what happened to Samantha, she is in my head every day, everything reminds me of her.

"A mother should never have to bury her child."

Drug deal brothers in 70mph car chase

A PAIR of drug-dealing brothers from Dudley who were caught after a police car chase ended in a crash have been jailed.

Shairaz and Shahbaz Hussain were on the police wanted list, not for drugs offences but for the suspected kidnap of a 17-year-old girl, Stafford Crown Court heard.

Officers on patrol in Dudley on April 5 spotted them in an Audi and pursued them at speeds of up to 70mph along roads with a 30mph speed limit.

Deals

The chase ended in Himley Road when the Audi clipped a Mercedes car driven by a woman in her 70s. Shairaz, who was driving, lost control and the car left the road.

Police searched the vehicle and found a cache of drugs on the passenger side – crack cocaine and heroin with a street value of between £300 and £400. Judge Amjad Nawaz said the drugs were packaged in 'street-sized deals, ready for sale'.

Shairaz Hussain, 25, of Himley Road, Dudley was jailed for 63 months after admitting two charges of possessing drugs with intent to supply, aggravated vehicle taking and dangerous driving. He was banned from driving for two years.

His brother, Shahbaz, 28, of the same address, who also admitted two drugs offences and was jailed for 53 months.

Both brothers admitted a charge of common assault on the teenager.

The court heard they had bundled her into a car when she came to their home on January 17. The defendants initially faced a charge of kidnap but the judge recorded a verdict of not guilty on that count.

Sudden death of journalist

A RESPECTED journalist who spent more than three decades covering the area where he grew up has died suddenly. Dave Lawley, a former chairman of governors at Tividale Junior and Infants School, was 61.

A grandfather-of-one, he joined the Express and Star at its Cradley Heath office in 1977 and worked for the newspaper for 30 years before becoming a press officer for Sandwell Council.

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Bag bugs led to the home of a postman

A POSTMAN under suspicion of stealing mail was caught in a trap set up by security chiefs.

Tracking devices were planted in two packages in Arron Williams's postbag, which led Royal Mail officials to his home in Brook Crescent, Wall Heath.

When his home was searched, investigators found 13 greetings cards, three 'birthday' cheques totalling £40, a gift card and 25 Euros.

Williams, aged 22, admitted stealing 13 postal packets belonging to Royal Mail Group Ltd between April 21 and July 9.

Sentencing

Dudley magistrates sent him to Wolverhampton Crown Court for sentencing on January 9.

Mr John Dove, prosecuting, said Williams joined Royal Mail in May 2010, working from Kingswinford delivery office but came under suspicion over non-delivery of items, so Royal Mail gave the go-ahead for surveillance on him.

Two packets, each including a tracking device, were put into his bag. On his way back to the office, the devices showed the packages were now at Williams' home.

Mr Dove added: "He was targeting greetings cards, which tended to be larger, more colourful and distinctive – and postmen know they are likely to contain money or items of value."

Williams, who resigned from Royal Mail in July, told the investigators he had become upset when his dog had to be put down. He bought some cannabis and then owed money, which was why he stole.

Man, 24, in court after gun found

A MAN has appeared in court charged with firearm and drugs offences following a raid on a house in Dudley.

Officers searched an address on Corser Street on November 28 finding drugs and a loaded 9mm pistol, a silencer, ammunition, mobile phones and cash, Wolverhampton Magistrates' Court heard on Saturday.

Stefan Rattray, 24, of Attington Drive, Eve Hill, faces nine charges.

He was remanded in custody to appear at the court again on March 3.

Family tributes to GP who died after crash

Dr Liz Pope – 'terrible loss'

THE family of a GP who died hours after declining hospital treatment when her car overturned in a crash has paid tribute to a 'much loved' wife, daughter, sister, aunt and friend.

Dr Elizabeth Pope, 38, died just hours after the accident near Halfpenny Green on November 27. Her car, an Alfa Romeo Giulietta, overturned but she chose to go home rather than hospital after being assessed at the scene by emergency services. She had appeared 'relatively uninjured' but died at her home in Claverley within two hours.

Despite being diagnosed with a hole in the heart six years ago and later with thyroid cancer, which saw the removal of her thyroid gland, she played hockey, went horse riding and was a keen gardener with her husband Trevor.

She volunteered for the London 2012 Olympics, where she was appointed to the Olympic Village GP group, helping many athletes and others. Her family said her death had 'left the world a much darker place'.

They said: "We are so very grateful we have been able to share in the life of this lovely, happy and energetic person who lit up our world, who loved us and whom we love.

Enthusiastic

"As we acknowledge with her death a light has gone out in our world, we also know for Liz the true light is still shining and the darkness has not extinguished it. May Liz rest in peace and rise in glory."

Stoke-born Dr Pope was described as an enthusiastic sportswoman and a devoted Christian. She studied medicine at Leicester University and after graduating married Trevor Pope, from Bridgnorth, and lived in Tasley.

Her career took her to Shrewsbury Royal Infirmary before moving to Somerset where she worked as a GP.

She moved back to Shropshire seven years ago and became a GP partner in the Three Villages Medical Practice for Amblecote and Wollaston.

A statement for Three Villages practice said: "Her commitment and enthusiasm for the practice, patients and her wider professional interests was infectious. She will be very sadly missed by her colleagues, patients and her many friends. Our thoughts are with her family at this painful time as we all try to come to terms with her untimely loss."

Dr David Hegarty, chairman of Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group, added: "Our CCG and the GP community has suffered a terrible loss. Liz not only showed tremendous commitment to her own patients and practice, she gave the same commitment to improving the quality of care for everyone in Dudley."

Hospital is forced to recruit from overseas

BLACK Country hospitals – including Dudley's Russells Hall – have resorted to recruiting nurses from overseas because of a shortage in the UK.

The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust is turning to Europe in its latest search for qualified nurses.

Meanwhile, New Cross Hospital in Wolverhampton, is recruiting from India, the Philippines and China.

by Peter Madeley

A recent recruitment drive to take on 18 new nurses at Russells Hall Hospital led to just one appointment.

Europe

Paula Clark, chief executive of the trust, said: "Due to a national nursing shortage, the Dudley Group, like many other trusts, has been forced to look overseas to recruit qualified band 5 nurses with acute hospital experience.

"We plan to actively recruit from Europe in the New Year.

"We recently advertised 18 additional nursing posts but were only able to appoint one nurse who had the necessary qualifications and experience."

The recent recruitment push attracted 79 applicants but only 17 were shortlisted as suitable for an interview.

Many were then found not to have the experience needed of working in acute healthcare.

Although only one was taken on towards the 18 new staff needed, another five were appointed into existing vacant surgical posts.

New Cross Hospital aims to take on 170 staff over the next year as part of a £3.6 million recruitment drive.

But bosses say they will have to recruit foreign staff because of a shortage of qualified nurses in the UK.

Denise Harnin, director of human resources at New Cross, admitted taking on nurses from overseas could bring added complications.

Bin bid to boost council coffers by selling space

SPACES on dozens of litter bins and roundabouts are being sold for advertising by council bosses as they look to boost their coffers amid a battle to trim millions of pounds from budgets.

A trial involving around 30 bins in Stourbridge town centre is taking place to see if the scheme proves popular.

Meanwhile, the council is looking to increase the number of roundabouts featuring advertising boards to 35.

Finance boss Pete Lowe said the authority wanted to make the most of its 'civic assets' to generate cash.

Bus brings down scaffolding

The scene after scaffolding poles were brought crashing down into the road and pavement in Dudley High Street

AN INVESTIGATION has been launched after scaffolding crashed on to a pavement and busy main road when it was struck by a bus.

A section of Dudley High Street was closed off for more than three hours on Friday after metal poles and wood were sent plummeting.

A man in his 40s suffered minor facial and knee injuries and was taken to Russells Hall Hospital after the double decker bus hit the scaffolding.

Metal scaffolding poles smashed through windows on the number 257 National Express double decker bus, shattering glass on the upper tier following the collision. West Midlands Fire service believe the bus, which takes passengers between Dudley and Stourbridge, struck he scaffolding, bringing it crashing down.

Paramedics

The scaffolding was in place near The Venue banqueting suite opposite the Church of Saint Thomas, known as Top Church.

Police, paramedics and fire crews were called to the top of Dudley High Street at its junction with Stafford Street at 9.50am.

National Express West Midlands spokesman Jack Kelly said: "We will work with the authorities during any investigation into its cause."

Trudie Price, who runs Trudie's New Style in High Street, described the scene. "I just heard this loud bang and I went outside and the bus was there and the scaffolding was in the road," she said. Passer-by Tracey Wollam, 31, who lives off High Street, said: "It was lucky no-one was seriously hurt."

NEWS in brief

Over The Edge wins best brew

A VILLAGE brewery is celebrating having one of its beers voted the best in the West Midlands for the second year in a row.

Judges at Dudley Winter Ales Fair at Dudley Town Hall gave the Campaign for Real Ale's West Midlands champion beer of the year title to Kinver Brewery for its 7.5 per cent strength Over The Edge.

Runner-up was Blythe Brewery near Rugeley for its porter Johnsons. Over the Edge also won the barley wine or strong old ale category.

Santa flys in to support charity

FATHER Christmas will be making a flying visit to a grand fundraising fair in Stourbridge on Saturday.

The event is from 10.30am at Age Concern, in the Elton Centre at St John's, Stourbridge, to help raise awareness of the services offered by the organisation. There will be items produced by those attending the centre's craft classes.

There will also be a raffle, tombola and other refreshments. Admission will cost 30p.

Getting together for singing carols

CHRISTMAS Together in Netherton will be celebrated at Netherton Arts Centre on Saturday, December 14 – and admission is free.

The event from 7pm will feature community carols for the family. Local schoolchildren will be performing. Refreshments will be available.

The musical event is being organised by Churches Together In Netherton.

Mediums attend centre festive fair

MEDIUMS will be holding 15 minute consultations for £5 at Dudley Spiritualist Centre's festive fair on Saturday. The free admission event is being held at Buffery Park Community Centre from 10am and 4pm. There will be a variety of stalls and refreshments available.

Beacon on course

VISUALLY impaired people from teed-off a morning of golf lessons as part of the 'ActivEyes' project set up by Beacon Centre for the Blind. Golf pros Mark Butler and Richard Challinor put the 14 through their paces at the Mark Butler Golfing Academy

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

SMOKING is the stupidest thing you can do. It makes you ill, shortens your life and steals your money. So why do so many Brits still smoke? Because the habit is as powerful as heroin. It is a compulsive chemical addiction which non-smokers simply do not understand. And while the NHS should try to help people quit, the very worst time to take away someone's fags is when they are in hospital. At a time of fear and stress people need their comforts, even if the comfort in question is slowly killing them. The NHS is trying to root out inconsiderate and unkind nursing, but the new proposal for a smoking ban inside and outside English hospitals would be plain cruel.

❑❑❑❑❑❑❑❑

THE truth is out. Immigration Minister Mark Harper says it would actually be illegal for the UK to limit the number of Romanians and Bulgarians allowed into the country. This is why David Cameron has been flailing around trying to slap a sticking plaster over the regulations by restricting benefits to migrants. The reality is that we no longer enjoy the most basic legal right of any nation, to control its own borders. So in what sense are we still a nation?

❑❑❑❑❑❑❑❑

INCIDENTALLY, does anyone remember Ted Heath mentioning a borderless continent when he lured us into the Common Market all those years ago? Was it ever explained to the voters by Wilson, Callaghan, Thatcher, Major, Blair, Brown or Cameron? The Libs, Labs and Cons are heading for a right old kicking from Ukip in next year's EU elections. And, for 50 years of lies, damned lies and betrayals, it will serve them all right.

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IN A blitz on cycle safety, 600 officers were stationed at 60 dangerous junctions in London this week. Clearly, they were not all experts on bicycles and the law. Ben Watson was carrying his two little girls in a CargoBike which looks like a cross between a bike and a wheelbarrow when one officer inquired:"Is that bike legal?" As Mr Watson put it: "I thought, well, you're the policeman, surely you should be telling me whether it's legal or not."

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BUT then the law is now so complex that no Pc can be expected to know it all. In an idle moment this week, dreaming of next year's sailing, I flicked through the Department of Transport regulations on lighting and number-plates for towing a boat trailer. War and Peace was an easier read.

❑❑❑❑❑❑❑❑

IN ONE of their early sketches lampooning the City, Monty Python flashed the caption ("SATIRE!") on screen in case anyone missed the point. Which leads me on to Mary Portas, the shopping guru who has single-handedly transformed Britain's ailing high streets into stylish, dynamic centres of soaring profits ("SATIRE!"). Her contribution to high-street happiness this week was to suggest that some charity shops are "a bit smelly and need sorting out." Just what you want to hear after a hard day at the dogs' home shop.

❑❑❑❑❑❑❑❑

OVER the past dozen years, in the quest to rid Afghanistan of the Taliban and create a decent society, more than 3,300 Nato troops, including 446 Brits, have been killed and thousands more maimed for life. This week it is announced that Afghanistan's justice ministry wants to introduce public stoning to death as the penalty for adultery. Makes it all worthwhile, doesn't it?

❑❑❑❑❑❑❑❑

A READER recounts a chilling experience in a power cut which put out all the street and house lights. Bowling merrily down the unlit pitch-black road was a vehicle showing no lights and with no road tax, driver's licence or insurance which was miraculously avoided by other vehicles – a disability scooter. These scooters in the 21st century are like handguns in the 20th century. Something will eventually be done, but only after a large number of people have been killed.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

End of an era as Earl of Dudley dies, aged 93

THE 4th Earl of Dudley, who has died at the age of 93, was part of one of the West Midland's most prosperous families.

Renowned for his good manners and courtesy, he served during the Second World War and in peacetime was a successful businessman as well as being a skilled amateur actor and poet.

Born on January 5, 1920, William Humble David Ward – known as Billy – was the latest in a family line key to the industrialisation of the Black Country. The Ward family had once lived in Dudley Castle and owned valuable coal assets including Baggeridge Colliery.

During the 17th century the Ward family inherited the title Lords of Dudley and, following damage to Dudley Castle during the Civil War, Himley Hall became the principal family home.

The Earl, who died on November 16, was brought up at Himley when the family then owned 30,000 acres in Staffordshire and Worcestershire. He was son of William Ward, 3rd Earl of Dudley, a descendant of Humble Ward, raised to the peerage as Baron Ward in the 17th century.

His great-grandfather, the 11th Lord Ward, became Viscount Ednam and Earl of Dudley in 1860. A statue of the 11th Lord Ward stands at Castle Street in Dudley, a symbol of the family's importance in the area.

The Earl's mother Lady Rosemary Millicent Sutherland-Leveson-Gower, only daughter of the 4th Duke of Sutherland, died in an air disaster in 1930.

King

During his early life at Himley, the estate hosted members of the Royal family. There was a close friendship between his father and the Duke of Windsor, formally King Edward VIII. The King spent his last weekend at Himley before his abdication in 1936. The Duke became young William Ward's godfather and Himley Hall also entertained the Duke and Duchess of Kent on their honeymoon in 1934.

He won a scholarship to Eton and, aged 16, when known as Lord Ednam, an exhibition to Christ Church, Oxford. A highly promising academic career was derailed when he contracted meningitis. His time at university was then interrupted by the Second World War. He saw action and was commissioned lieutenant in the 10th Royal Hussars (Prince of Wales' Own), his father's old regiment. During 1942 and 1943 he was aide-de-camp to the Viceroy of India. He was wounded in September 1944 serving in Italy.

After the war, Lord Ednam joined the board of Round Oak Steelworks, iwhich had originally been founded as the Earl of Dudley's Round Oak Works in 1897.

He became the 4th Earl of Dudley following the death of his father in 1969.

He was chairman of British Federal Welder and Machine, which had a plant in Birmingham New Road, Dudley. The Earl was also deputy chairman of Baggeridge Brick Company which was a subsidiary set up alongside the colliery.

He had also sat in the House of Lords as a Conservative until 1999.

He was first married to Stella Cárcano, daughter of the Argentine Ambassador in London, and they had twin daughters and a son, Viscount Ednam, who succeeds as the 5th Earl of Dudley. They divorced in 1961. Later that year he married film star, Maureen Swanson. They had a son and five daughters. Until her death in 2011, the couple continued to entertain their wide circle of friends at their home in Kensington.

The 4th Earl of Dudley – Billy Ward to his friends

No closure but hours may be cut at centres

CHILDREN'S centres in Dudley will not now be closed after council chiefs made a dramatic U-turn in the wake of fierce opposition.

Council leader David Sparks said that no centres in the borough would shut in the 'foreseeable future'. But he warned opening hours and staffing levels could still be reduced as part of the on-going consultation.

by Heather Large

The council was considering closing seven of the borough's 20 children's centres to save £2.3 million. But the move sparked a wave of protests from parents of youngsters who use the centres, saying they are a vital service. Councillor Sparks said it had been clear from the consultation that there was strong opposition to closure.

Funding

"It's quite clear that there is no support for the closure of children's centres, in fact there is quite the opposite.

"Christmas is coming up and I don't want young mothers worrying about what they are going to do with their children next year. We are not going to close children's centres and we are going to have a look at how we might be able to build on their role in the community."

Councillor Sparks said the funding gap would be covered by 'organisational savings' across the council such as staff restructuring and he could not rule out job losses. The council needs to make almost £60m of cuts over the next three years. He said that due to the council's worsening financial position, the way children's centres are run would need to be reviewed.

Conservative leader Councillor Patrick Harley said: "We have said all along that if they got the children's services budget under control they wouldn't need to shut the centres."

MPs have also welcomed the U-turn. Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris, who joined a campaign to save the Tenterfields centre in Halesowen, said: "I am delighted that David Sparks has done the right thing, listened to the overwhelming opposition to the closures and accepted that the council's proposals were a terrible idea. Nobody should pretend that there are any easy answers, because budgets are tight, but scrapping the vital services provided by children's centres was not the right way forward."

Stourbridge MP Margot James tweeted: "Good to hear Dudley Council have withdrawn disastrous proposals to close seven out of 20 children's centres, including three in Stourbridge." Dudley North MP Ian Austin said: "I want to make sure that the ones that were deemed to be satellites like Sedgley and Priory will not only have their services maintained but will be strengthened."

Chris Kelly, MP for Dudley South, said the closures 'should never have been proposed in the first place.'

Centre saved – Parents Julie Pearson and Kerry Wicketts, front, are among those who campaigned to save Kingswinford and Wall Heath Children's Centre

Library is open after a revamp

A LIBRARY has reopened – more than a week ahead of schedule – after a £17,000 facelift.

Cradley Library reopened after maintenance, including repairs to the roof and redecoration inside and out.

The library closed on November 4 and was due to be back in business on December 9. During the work, Cradley Community Centre hosted a temporary library service.

Normal

The library is back to its normal opening hours: Mondays 9am to 1pm and 2pm to 7pm; Tuesdays 9.30am to 1pm and 2pm to 7pm; Wednesdays 9am to 1pm and 2pm to 6pm; Thursdays 9am to 1pm and 2pm to 7pm; Fridays 9am to 1pm and 2p to 6pm; Saturdays 9am to 1pm and 2-5pm.

Dudley Councillor Stuart Turner, cabinet member for libraries, said: "It's great that the library has been able to reopen ahead of schedule and normal service can resume. Thanks to everyone for their patience while this essential work was carried out, and thanks to the community centre for hosting a temporary library service for us."

Festive market

A CHRISTMAS market will be held at the Railway Cafe, near Wombourne, this weekend.

The cafe on the old railway line at Bratch Lane will host the festive market on Saturday and Sunday, from 10am to 4pm, and will feature up to 30 stalls, all under cover.

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Man is cut on head in a couple's final row

A WOMAN cut her ex-partner on the head after chasing him with a knife, a court has heard.

Wolverhampton Crown Court was told 29-year-old Lisa Cleaver had been drinking on the night of the attack, during which Simon Ball, had to barricade himself in a bedroom.

Prosecuting barrister Bernard Linnemann told the court that the couple had got into an argument on February 27 at their flat.

He said: "She was to describe him as being controlling and manipulative."

Police

Mr Linnemann said Cleaver, from George Street, Wordsley, took hold of a kitchen knife and pursued Mr Ball. He then barricaded himself in a bedroom and called the police on his mobile.

Mr Ball was sitting with his back to the door and at one stage Cleaver managed to get her arm around it, waving the knife with which she cut his head.

Defending barrister Mr Philip Brunt said the incident was marked the end of a relationship which had its difficulties.

He added: "The event is isolated."

Mr Brunt also said Cleaver's GP stated that she is suffering from depression and has been prescribed medication.

Cleaver, who had pleaded guilty to assault, was sentenced to 10 months in jail, suspended for 18 months. She was also handed an 18-month supervision order and must pay £500 costs.

Hats off to the knitters

KNITTERS have clicked away to produce more than 2,300 little woolly hats.

Supporters of Dudley Age UK have been busy making the hats, in the shape of fruit, animals and people, to sit on smoothie bottles.

The Innocent company is donating 25p from each bottle sold throughout November to Age UK as part of its 'Big Knit' campaign. The bottles with hats are now on sale at Sainsbury's, ASDA, Tesco, Morrisons, Waitrose, WHSmith, Boots, Costa and Ocado.

Age UK Dudley's chief officer Sally Huband said: "We're very grateful that so many local knitters have got behind the Big Knit."

Merry Hill bus station plan axed from scheme

PLANS for a new bus station at Merry Hill shopping centre have been scrapped but a bus interchange at Cradley Heath will be given a £1.9 million revamp instead.

The interchange, next to Cradley Heath's railway station, will get the overhaul as part of a wider £10m scheme to improve bus transport in the area.

But a planned £3m bus station at Merry Hill has been shelved as it would have been too expensive to build, say transport bosses.

Under the approved funding programme headed by the region's transport authority Centro, there will be £1.1million in highway improvements on The Boulevard, including a new link road between the centre and the A4306, and Pedmore Road.

Ward councillor Rachel Harris said: "It is an awful shame. It offered a really good opportunity to bring more people into the town centre on public transport.

Congestion

"It would have helped ease congestion problems in the area. We need good bus services in the this area as it is highly reliant on buses. Deciding not to go ahead with the bus station feels very short-sighted."

She added: "It is a signal that the car is more important than anything else."

Council leader David Sparks said: "It is disappointing the bus station will not be going ahead at this time. However, it is great news for local residents that there will be a pedestrian crossing across the Pedmore Road to Merry Hill."

As part of the plans for the Merry Hill bus station, a new building would have been built and the number of serving buses increased by a quarter

Centro will now meet Sandwell Council, bus operators and architects to work out the detail of what commuters at Cradley Heath will see from that work, expected to start in the spring and finish around next Christmas.

Mark Langford, Centro media officer, said: "When we first won the funding the dream scenario was to do this at Merry Hill, but the more we looked into it the more we realised it wasn't going to be feasible with the available funding. So we looked into what else we could do and identified that the bus interchange was a good fall back for us to pursue and develop."

Other benefits expected in the £10m scheme include £3.3m on new buses, £1m of shelter and information improvements on eight key routes into Brierley Hill, and £700,000 towards the Black Country Swift smart card scheme in Dudley.

Council accused of defying public will over care home

CAMPAIGNERS have rounded on officials for 'going against the will of the people' by proposing to get rid of a council-run care home.

Bosses at Dudley Council say they can no longer foot the bill for running costs and £750,000-worth of renovations needed at Kingswinford's New Bradley Hall care home.

by Andrew Turton

But their proposals have sparked a furious backlash by an action group aiming to save the home.

In 2011, the council signalled its intention to shut the home but made a U-turn after 5,000 people signed a petition demanding the plans were scrapped and a fresh consultation be held.

Age.

An independent consultation was led by Age UK Dudley last year with councillors vowing to listen to views.

The consultation found that 75 per cent of people wanted New Bradley Hall to stay open as a long-term council-run home.

Campaigners were assured they would be part of 'stakeholder' meetings.

But the action group say they were only invited to one meeting in the months before plans to 'transfer' the home were announced in September.

Campaign founder Mac Scott MBE said the public had made it clear they wanted the home to stay under council control.

He added: "They say they will put covenants on the contracts to protect it but what are they really worth at the end of the day?"

A public meeting has been called for Tuesday, December 17, at Kingswinford Methodist Church, in Stream Road, Kingswinford, starting at 7pm.

Campaigners also dispute council claims that £750,000 of renovations are needed, saying the figures are outdated.

Councillor Branwood claimed that inviting tenders from those offering to run the care home was the only way forward.

He claimed the decision removed the 'uncertainty' that was faced by residents and staff, by guaranteeing a future for the care home.

Councillors moving back surgery dates

THREE councillors have cancelled advice surgeries in their ward during December because of Christmas engagements.

The Quarry Bank and Dudley Wood representatives on Dudley Council would normally have held the events on the second and fourth Friday of the month. Instead, the next surgeries for Councillors David Sparks, Bryan Cotterill and Jackie Cowell, will be held on January 10.

They will be at Dudley Wood Adult and Community Centre from 6 to 6.45pm on that date, followed by the Sheltered Housing office in Sheffield Street, Quarry Bank, from 7 to 7.45pm.

School choir wow the judges

Festive voices at shopping centre – the young singers from Netherbrook Primary won the Best Performer prize

YOUNG singers have been raising the roof of a major Black Country shopping centre as they took to the stage in an annual festive choir competition

Around 30 schools from across the region have been hitting the high notes in the Little Voices competition at Merry Hill in Dudley.

Among the schools taking part was Netherbrook Primary in Dudley, Howley Grange Primary in Halesowen and Moat Farm Junior School in Oldbury.

The pupils sang festive number and performances have been judged by a panel made up of Merry Hill staff, business representatives and community leaders.

The choirs have been singing their hearts out against each other in a bid for four schools to each win £1,000.

Won

For the first time this year, schools were also in with the chance to win a team-building day at Quest, the family entertainment and adventure centre.

Netherbrook Primary from Dudley won the Best Performer category.

Wednesbury Oak Primary from Tipton won Best Newcomer and Westacre Middle School, Droitwich, won Best Choir. Wolverhampton's Oxley Primary won the Judges' Choice.

Kelly Reed, senior marketing manager at Merry Hill said: "The schools that took part in the competition this year were absolutely fantastic and the judges had a very hard time choosing the winners."

The choir competition is one of many events being organised by Merry Hill in the run up to Christmas. The centre's 5D Santa's Grotto experience is at the lower mall by Debenhams until Christmas Eve.

NEWS in brief

Church is to be officially closed

PLANS are being drawn up to formally close a grade II listed Anglican church as a place of worship so it can be transferred to a community group, enabling restoration work to be carried out.

St John's Church in Dudley shut to worshippers in 2002 due to safety fears but campaigners want to renovate the building so it can be used by the community.

Before responsibility for the building can be passed to St John's Church Preservation Group, the church has to be closed by the Church Commissioners, who are now working on the legalities.

Lifeguard training in the Crystal pool

SWIMMERS are being encouraged to make a New Year resolution to learn how to save lives.

Life-saving skills will be taught at the Crystal Leisure Centre in Stourbridge with intensive sessions running from January 6 to 10 between 2 and 10.30pm, with an exam on January 11 for an official lifeguard qualification. The course costs £240. A deposit of £50 will be required when booking with Nikki Tranter at Crystal Leisure Centre on 01384 812800.

Plenty of argy bargy in tunnel

THEY dubbed it 'Argy Bargy' – a dramatic canal rescue as more than 60 firefighters took part in a training exercise earlier this month. Crews from across the West Midlands headed to the Netherton Tunnel in Dudley for the exercise, which simulated what would happen if a narrowboat caught fire.

Photo exhibition goes on display

A PHOTOGRAPHY exhibition depicting the heritage of Dudley has opened in Netherton.

The photos are the work of adult learners who have taken part in courses during the past 12 months.

The exhibition is at Netherton Arts Centre until Monday.

Road is named for chainmaker

DEVELOPER Midland Heart's 120 home retirement village next to Homer Hill Park in Cradley will include a road named Benjamin Drive, after chainmaker and council chairman Benjamin Hodgetts, who died in 1926.

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NEWS FEATURE

IN MY VIEW WITH MARK ANDREWS

BORIS Johnson says tackling inequality is futile because 16 per cent of the population have an IQ of below 85, meaning they will never be able to compete on equal terms in the labour market with the two per cent who possess an IQ of 130 or more.

Which is fair enough in theory, but I wonder if it always works that way in reality.

Suppose, for argument's sake that one of the 16 per cent with an IQ of less than 85 is born into the sort of background Boris comes from. Finest prep school money can buy, top public school from the age of 13, and then there's always the option of a bit of private tuition should those pesky O-levels and A-levels get a bit tickly.

Then, at the other end of the scale, there is one of the two per cent possessing an IQ of 130 or more, who goes to a 'bog-stan'ard comprehensive' on a sink estate. 'Sadly, he doesn't pick up much from his mixed-ability classes because Mr Chips is rather preoccupied with stopping little Keanu from setting fire to little Johnnie's hair.

Which of those two youngsters would you say has the best life chance? Quite.

But he is right that the best way to address this unfairness is to invest in schools which give bright kids from deprived backgrounds a chance to compete on a level playing field with those who are privately educated.

Perhaps we could call them, I dunno, grammar schools or something?

❒❒❒❒❒❒

HOW sad to hear about the death of Lewis Collins, better known as Bodie in The Professionals, at the age of just 67.

It also reminds us of a time when there were just three television channels, but a vast array of programmes you might actually want to watch.

During the late 1970s you could switch on almost any night of the week and watch a fast-paced, British-made action drama. The Sweeney, Minder, Van Der Valk, Shoestring, Target – all right, maybe not Target – all pulled in millions of viewers.

The stories may have been far-fetched, the effects a bit rough and ready, but who cares? The scripts were spot on, and that's all that really matters.

Now we have dozens of TV channels, and prime-time viewing seems to consist primarily of tone-deaf singers, minor celebrities trying to dance, and a bloke in the jungle who can't tell the time. And they call it progress.

● Contact Mark on Twitter: MAndrews_Star

With fellow firefighter Jim McParland in Tanzania

Rudy with Mia, aged two, who he helped rescue in Haiti

Alongside other volunteers in Siret, Romania

Rescuer Rudy bows out from an amazing career

LISA WRIGHT talks to firefighter Rudy Parkes who has retired after a long career helping out communities at home and abroad

FROM digging a child out from the rubble of her collapsed nursery in earthquake-hit Haiti, to fighting one of the West Midlands' biggest fires earlier this year, Rudy Parkes has had a remarkable career.

As a member of West Midlands Fire Service he has tackled countless house fires, car crashes and was even on shift on the night of the 1985 Handsworth riots and the Chinese lantern blaze in Smethwick this year.

But now after three decades of service Rudy has retired.

Investigate

During his career the veteran firefighter, who ended his service as watch commander at Cradley Heath, and is married to Clare, 40, and father to 10-year-old William, has not only saved lives in the Midlands, but also spent more than 20 years visiting some of the poorest parts of the world to help build schools and community facilities.

He has led more than 50 trips to Romania and six to Tanzania.

This was alongside his firefighter duties and his role in the International Search and Rescue squad which has included working in earthquake-hit Japan and Haiti.

And it was in Haiti in 2010 that he was part of a team that carried out his most memorable rescue.

"We were actually searching a supermarket, there were about 40 of us rescuers and it was around lunchtime.

Rudy receiving his MBE with wife Clare and son William in May of 2012

"A young lad came running up to me and grabbed hold of my arm," said Rudy, who now lives in Wollaston, Stourbridge.

"Me and [fellow rescuer] Dean Harris said we would go and investigate. We walked down the road, about 500 yards, and there was a school that had collapsed. As soon as I got onto the rubble I could hear a little girl crying 'Mummy'."

That little girl was two-year-old Mia, and fellow West Midlands colleagues, as well as those from Wales and Manchester, rushed to help. Mia had been trapped under a concrete slab beneath the rubble for three days and three nights, and crews used their bare hands to free the toddler.

Rudy added: "As she came out, her little face was dirty. She went straight to her mother.

"It was quite tense at the time because what you do is you focus.

"You have got a job to do and you have to stay focused and each person in that team was part of that rescue, it was probably the best one I've been involved in."

Rudy's fundraising efforts have ranged from flying to Ecuador in February 2009 to raise money for the Bobby Moore Fund cancer charity – of which Rudy is project manager – with Express & Star columnist Carl Chinn and his colleague Andy Grosvenor, to a 120-mile canoe trip down the River Severn to raise money for an orphanage in Tanzania.

Remote

He has also helped to construct a physiotherapy unit at the Salvation Army's Matumi orphanage in Dar Es Salaam.

Other exploits have included helping to build an extension to a school in Alto Paraíso, a remote village in Brazil, in 2010.

In March the next year, he also joined the ISAR squad helping to find the survivors of the earthquake in Japan.

The 53-year-old received an MBE from the Prince of Wales at Buckingham Palace in May 2012 for his charity work at home and abroad.

As his career drew to a close Rudy was also one of the 200 firefighters who attended the huge fire at Jayplas recycling plant in Smethwick in July, sparked by a Chinese lantern that floated onto the site.

He said: "I've loved every minute, I've got no regrets and I've loved going to work every day and every night."

THROUGH THE YEARS

1983...

A SCHOOL held a uniform amnesty to tackle an energy crisis. Codsall High School headmaster Geoffrey Bate told his 1,000 pupils they could wear whatever they wanted to keep warm after a strike by oilmen forced the school to turn its heating system off.

A DEJECTED Father Christmas was facing up to the prospect of unemployment after his decision to open a grotto in Dudley ran into trouble. Santa, alias Dennis Edwards, had been hoping to set up his grotto at Enterprise Shopping Mall in King Street, but discovered Dudley Council was also planning to lay on its own 'Space Santa' grotto.

WEST Indies cricket star George Headley died aged 74. The batsmen, who also spent three years at Dudley Cricket Club, notched up 2,190 runs in 22 Tests.

1993...

CONFIDENCE in political leaders appeared to have fallen to an all-time low, if a charity auction in the West Midlands was anything to go by. Signed photographs of Prime Minister John Major and Labour leader John Smith fetched just £5 each at the auction in Great Barr - while a jar of pickled onions was judged eight times as valuable, fetching £40.

PATIENTS awaiting major surgery were having their operations cancelled because Chinese flu victims were were swamping hospital beds. The intensive care units at both the Royal and New Cross Hospitals in Wolverhampton were full.

TERRY Cooper quit as manager of Birmingham City, just 18 months after guiding them to promotion. Cooper, who had got Blues out of the old Third Division, decided to leave St Andrews after coming under fire from fans at a 3-0 defeat against Tranmere.

2003...

A PETROL station in Wolverhampton became the first in the world to install a new anti-theft system which would puncture the tyres of any drivers attempting to make off without paying for their fuel. The 'stinger' was the brainchild of Oldbury inventor Jaginder Singh Mudhar. It had been installed at the BP garage in Stubbs Road, Penn Fields.

TELEVISION debating show Question Time was broadcast from Wolverhampton Civic Hall. Panellists included Constitutional Affairs Secretary Lord Falconer and former Chancellor of the Exchequer Ken Clarke.

PAUL Gascoigne's time at Molineux was over after just six weeks, after he admitted he wasn't capable of playing Premiership football.

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Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

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Secret of tunnels is discovered as huge drug farm unearthed

A MASSIVE underground cannabis farm has been unearthed at historic Drakelow Tunnels – 885 plants were seized with a potential to create drugs with a street value of £750,000.

Around 30 police officers, including dog handlers, swooped on the former nuclear bunker site, in the shadow of the Kinver Edge, at Wolverley.

Hydroponic

They discovered a network of hydroponic equipment, including heating, lighting and ventilation fans, as well as the plants, when they swooped at around 9am on November 27.

Earlier, officers from West Mercia and Warwickshire Police executed a search warrant in a dawn swoop on an address in Kidderminster, where a 45-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of money laundering and being concerned in the production and supply of controlled drugs.

A quantity of cash was also seized at that property. He has been released on police bail until the New Year.

North Worcestershire police Superintendent Kevin Purcell said: "While executing the warrant at Drakelow Tunnels we discovered a large and sophisticated cannabis growing operation and although the plants will need to be tested it would appear that this seizure has prevented a large quantity of illegal drugs ending up on the streets. That in itself is a very positive outcome."

The tunnels have for decades housed dark secrets – from being a mysterious government nuclear bunker to, more recently, hosting ghost hunts in the dead of night.

Drakelow Tunnels were used to manufacture machine parts during the Second World War and during the Cold War the site was designated a centre for local government leaders in the event of a nuclear attack.

Workers from Western Power dug up and disconnected a suspected illegal electricity supply to the tunnels complex.

Anyone with information is urged to call 101. Details can also be left anonymously at Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

The forbidding entrance to the mysterious Drakelow Tunnels, near Kinver, which were to be the regional government HQ in the event of a nuclear attack

From nuclear bunker to scene of the crime

A police officer on guard at the site after the drugs find

Inside one of the tunnels that makes up the labyrinth beneath Kingsford Country Park

NOW there is a new chapter to go down in the folklore of the mysterious Drakelow Tunnels.

The vast network of tunnels beneath Kingsford Country Park, on the fringe of Kinver Edge, has been uncovered as a drug farm.

Neighbours in Drakelow Lane, Wolverley, have been shocked. One woman, who did not wish to be named, said: "A neighbour phoned me about 9.30am and asked what I'd been up to as there were police down the lane.

"Then I saw police and dogs, a riot van, four or five marked cars, four unmarked cars and police racing around the compound. A guy from the electricity company then knocked at the door and said someone had been up to no good in the tunnels – they'd been growing cannabis."

Drakelow Tunnels used to be a manufacturing base for machine parts during the Second World War and was designated a 'regional seat of government' in the event of nuclear attack during the Cold War.

Glimpse

In a rare glimpse behind the scenes given to The Chronicle's sister newspaper the Express & Star at the tunnels recently, electrical vehicles used to move components could still be seen, as well as a sickbay and a security booth.

Close by is the 'BBC Room', from which broadcasts would have been made telling people what was happening after a nuclear attack. A control desk is still in place, along with telephones from the 1960s and 1980s.

The tunnels were designed by Sir Alexander Gibb and Partners and were excavated from the sandstone hills.

It was to be a factory for the Rover company, who were manufacturing engines for use in the war effort. Construction work began in June 1941 but full production did not start at the complex until May 1943. It cost more than £1 million to complete.

During the 1950s, the site was used by the Ministry of Supply for storage. The site was decommissioned during the early 1990s and sold.

Plans have been submitted by the company Quercus Ilex SA to create a museum and gift shop and to build six new homes in the grounds.

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CLUB NEWS

Get better soon wish for ladies

WOLLASTON E TWG

CHAIRMAN Jean Latham welcomed 52 members to the November meeting and read the list of apologies.

Two long standing members, Phyllis Dunn and Brenda Holmes, are quite ill at the moment, so best wishes to their speedy recovery were expressed by all members.

The floral art class enjoyed a day at Hampton Court Gardens, which was enhanced by the publication of a good group photograph in the winter edition of 'Townswoman'.

The coach pick-up point for Wollaston members attending the National Carol Service at Coventry Cathedral on Tuesday December 17 is Hagley Road, Stourbridge, opposite the Lex Garage. The time of the pick-up is 9.45am.

The carol service on Tuesday December 3, at Cobden Street Methodist Church, starts at 7.30pm, while the federation service on Saturday December 14, at St Thomas' Church, Stourbridge, starts at 2pm.

The speaker for the evening was Mr George Hook who gave an interesting talk on his family business, which had, since around 1820, been involved in making mother of pearl items.

The next meeting, which will double as the Christmas party, is on Tuesday December 10, at 7.30pm, in St James Church Hall, Wollaston. There is a charge of £3.50, which members can pay on the evening.

Thanks go out for top floral display

HAWNE TG

THE CHAIRMAN welcomed 40 members to the November meeting. She thanked Chris Hicks for the lovely flower arrangement that she had provided for the business table.

The arrangements and pick up points for the Coventry Carol service were given and the members were reminded about the Federation Carol service at St Thomas Church, Stourbridge on the December 14 starting at 2.15.

The social secretary gave the details for the outing to Wightwick Manor.

We will have a guided tour and after a visit to the gift shop, a light lunch. We received lots of invitations to various charity events at Dudley Town Hall.

Our evening's speaker was Mr John Billingham, a retired local teacher and author, who told us about the journey of Our Stour from Clent to Stourport.

We learnt fascinating facts about the geography of our surrounding area.

St Thomas Church in Stourbridge, where the federation's carol service is taking place

Mr Billingham then judged our corsage competition and declared Chris Hicks the winner.

Our next meeting on December 9 is our Christmas party.

Meetings are held in the Haven Room, Zion Christian Centre, Halesowen. For further information please ring 0121 602 6572.

Speaker Keith's a glass act

KINGS'FD DIST HISTORICAL SOC

THE SPEAKER at the November meeting was Keith Cattell whose subject was Light Fantastic – 1000 Years of Stained Glass.

He briefly referred to the history of glass first made by the Romans and Egyptians, and then by means of his large collection of coloured slides he explained that the term 'stained glass' was usually applied to church windows.

The coloured glass was created by adding mineral oxide powders and the term also applied to painted glass that had been fused in a kiln.

Showing many examples of religious themes depicted in church windows, from the 13 century windows of Chartres Cathedral in France to the modern window created in Coventry Cathedral, consecrated in 1962.

Visitors are welcome for meetings which take place at the Community centre, High Street, Kingswinford.

Further details from Ron Julian 01384 295848.

There is no meeting in January 2014, by contrast February 3 at 7.30 pm sees Dr Paul Collins taking The Tram from Dudley.

BISHOPS WOOD WI

COLIN McShane was our speaker on a bitter November evening. He took us on a virtual tour of his declared "favourite island", Lundy.

The island sits nineteen miles off the coast of North Devon. It is only two miles square and has a permanent population of less than two dozent.

There is a Christmas Party for WI members on Tuesday December 10 in the Village Hall.

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LETTERS

HS2 distracts from rail scandal

IN A supposed age of austerity, £50bn is easily and quickly found for duplicating long distance, inter-city lines that work so well already.

The real capacity issue is in the seven hours of rush hour from Monday to Friday, made worse by our two class trains that have spare capacity in first class.

Rush hour congestion can be relieved by re-opening the 38 miles of existing unused and underused urban rail lines. These 38 miles are the Camp Hill line, the Dudley line and the Sutton line. The Camp Hill line would make a big profit if a chord was built (a curved section of line) to bring it into Moor Street Station instead of congested New Street.

The unused Dudley line has Merry Hill shopping centre, the Waterfront, Black Country Living Museum and Dudley Castle on or near it. This is financially viable, if properly promoted for these attractions and as a commuter route. Even if it makes a loss, a new regime of profitable lines subsidising the ecologically and socially responsible lines, must be brought in.

Walsall has many lines radiating from its centre. Walsall to Dudley and Stourbridge Junction remains largely unused but is available for freight trains. This important 13.5 miles double track rail line has remained a wasted asset for over 40 years as road traffic congestion has worsened alongside it or, in its vicinity.

Fifty billions for the unnecessary, extravagant, flash, High Prestige 2 rail line but not a fraction of that cost for a southern or Black Country extension of the Walsall to Rugeley commuter line and, possible inter-city line. This is truly scandalous.

T WELLER
Hunnington Crescent
Halesowen

Heathens' fans put sport first

I ATTENDED the Heathens presentation night at the Copthorne Hotel in Brierley Hill. We, the fans of Cradley/Dudley Heathens, packed the place to celebrate the achievements of our Speedway club in 2013.

The prizes were presented by World Champion Tai Woffinden, who rides for the Heathens rivals – Wolverhampton.

It was a magnificent evening made even more so by the Heathens supporters giving Tai a standing ovation.

Could you imagine any other sports fans doing the same? Just wait until we get a track of our own. This is a plea for us to be recognised by the councils and landowners of the Black Country, to be landlords of a global success story.

Thank you to all involved with our success.

A BLACKWELL
Meriden Avenue
Wollaston

LETTERS to the Editor

POST
Dudley Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES

E-MAIL
Dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Please don't force us onto unreliable buses

IT WOULD appear from your paper that those at Centro are the latest to jump on the bash the pensioners' band wagon in proposing to cut the free local train and tram concession.

This will be yet another blow to those in the Blackheath and Quinton area who are able to travel in comfort by train to Stourbridge, Wolverhampton, Birmingham and further afield to Solihull and Coventry.

The only alternative are the buses, namely the 140 and 241, which are the WORST two services on the road, since they are frequently late or taken out of service, leaving people waiting 45 minutes or more for the next bus.

There were two other buses which used to run through Quinton, The Stag and Mucklow Hill but, in their wisdom, Centro diverted these services onto the Number 9 route which is already well served.

Whereas the buses are unreliable and resemble wind tunnels when somebody decides to open windows, the trains are frequent, reliable and warm.

These people at Centro should try using the 140 and 241 services to find out just how poor they are.

H SMITH
Greenhill Road,
Halesowen

Typhoon and debt ravage a country

HUNDREDS of thousands of people in the Philippines are still coping with the devastating impact of Typhoon Haiyan last month.

The British people and countries around the world have been unbelievably generous in their response.

Yet that country's massive debt burden means that 22 million dollars is leaving the country every day to pay off debts – many of which were inherited from the dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos in the 1980s.

It's more than 20 per cent of the Filipino government's income.

Please support the call by the Jubilee Debt Campaign for the country's debt to be cancelled.

R TABERNER
Regent Road
Tividale

Home improvements for older people

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You may be thinking about improving your house so you can make the most of your home. Perhaps you need a more modern bathroom, a better kitchen or new windows. You might even be thinking of adapting your home to better suit any mobility problems.

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THE WAY I SEE IT

Time to stand up and fight for local services

Dudley North Labour MP Ian Austin takes the stand in our weekly Chronicle column which gives our local representatives the chance to air their views

'Service we all rely on will all be hit. Make no mistake: this is what the Government means by austerity'

IT'S my job to stand up and fight for the services local people rely on – and I've been campaigning over the last few weeks to keep local Children's Centres open.

The council had considered closing them because they have to make huge cuts to their budgets.

George Osborne is claiming the financial crisis is over and the economy is recovering but cuts in government funding to local services are only just starting to bite.

We all know savings have to be made, but he and the Tories need to explain why services here in Dudley are being hit much harder than those in other areas.

Over six years, council spending will be cut by £100 million.

The amount of money councillors can allocate to local services is being cut by 40 per cent.

Local people will lose their jobs and services we all rely on – like local roads, schools, parks, getting our bins emptied, and the social services caring for vulnerable youngsters, the disabled or our elderly parents – will all be hit.

Make no mistake: this is what the government means by austerity.

It's all well and good for Conservative MPs to complain about the impact of cuts in Dudley, but the council wouldn't have to make these painful decisions if they hadn't voted for them in the House of Commons in the first place.

I visited the children's centres to listen to parents who use them. I called on the council to look again at their plans and launched a petition against the changes.

The last Labour government opened Sure Start centres to offer affordable childcare to working families along with a whole range of other support.

David Cameron promised Sure Starts would be safe in his hands, but he's slashed the grants councils receive, hundreds of centres are closing and childcare costs are up by a third.

I'm pleased our councillors have made a commitment not to close any centres in Dudley and I want to make sure that centres like Sedgley and Priory will have their services maintained.

But no-one should think the council can make the savings the government has demanded, and Conservative MPs have voted for, without having to cut other vital services.

■■■

Holly Hall Walk-In Centre is also threatened with closure.

We live in Dudley and, just like anyone else, I've used the walk-in centre when I've needed a doctor out-of-hours. It's the best way of getting treatment if you can't get an appointment with your GP. Holly Hall serves 50,000 patients, many of whom cannot access GP surgeries due to work.

I want health bosses to guarantee that the same level of services will be provided if they do move services to a new urgent treatment centre at the hospital and that the same number of patients would be treated. But I'm also sceptical about whether GPs will actually open during the evenings and weekends.

The truth is that access to GP services has been reduced because the government got rid of Labour's policy that said GPs had to give patients an appointment in 48 hours and because they abolished the funding we put in to pay them for opening during the evening and weekend.

I'm concerned that if we lose our local walk-in centre many people won't be able to see a doctor without losing time from work, which means losing money.

A&E services are already close to being unable to cope and I'm fearful losing our walk-in centre will also push waiting times up again, just like under the last Tory government.

I joined Labour's Shadow Health Secretary Andy Burnham at the centre last week. He joined me in calling for guarantees that any changes wouldn't be to the detriment of out-of-hours services.

I'm going to continue fighting for the centre with Labour's candidate for Dudley South, Natasha Millward, and I want as many local people as possible to make their voices heard.

You can join the campaign and sign our petition here: http://labourclp14.nationbuilder.com/keep_our_walk_in. The consultation itself runs until 24 December, and you can submit a reply by writing to FREEPOST RTGH-YKLH-AZXZ, Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group, Brierley Hill Health & Social Care Centre, Venture Way, Brierley Hill, DY5 1RU. Or you can respond online at https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/YHGYBHP

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FREE PARKING

Hoax 999 caller is facing a £200 bill

A WOMAN escaped a prison sentence after admitting making three inappropriate 999 calls while drunk.

Janet North, aged 56, of Strickley Lane, Gornal, also pleaded guilty to being drunk in a public place after kicking a newspaper kiosk in Dudley town centre.

Dudley Magistrates' Court heard how North made three calls to police dialling 999 using a mobile phone on September 26. After arrest, she told police she did not know why she made the calls.

Mr Gerry Vahey, defending, said she had alcohol problems and was now seeking help.

District Judge Graham Wilkinson gave her a six-month community order with supervision and fined her £55. She must also pay £85 costs and £60 victim surcharge.

He said: "That call has to be answered. People like you who make calls when drunk clog up the system.

"999 is there for real emergencies and anyone who abuses it can expect to be severely dealt with."

He added that is she continued to abused the 999 system, she would be given a prison sentence.

North pleaded guilty to persistently making use of communication network to cause inconvenience.

More views sought on future of medical care after closure

MORE than 1,000 people have responded to consultation on plans to close a walk-in centre, said health bosses as they announced extra events for patients to have their say.

Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is shutting the centre at Holly Hall Clinic, in Stourbridge Road, Dudley. It has a £1.4 million contract with health care firm Primecare to run the clinic but bosses say this cash may be better spent allowing people to see their own GPs.

An extension to opening hours of practices where out-of-hours services would be available is being considered. A new 'urgent care' centre, based at Russells Hall Hospital, is also proposed.

More than 1,000 people have already given their views in person or by completing a written or online survey.

Extra drop-in sessions on the evenings of December 12 and 17 have been organised. They will take place at Stourbridge Town Hall between 6.30pm and 8pm and at Dudley College's Broadway campus from 6.30pm to 8pm respectively.

Events will also take place between 12pm and 2pm on December 12 at Dudley Council Plus in Castle Street, Dudley. The consultation, which began last month, closes at 5pm on Christmas Eve.

Paul Maubach, chief accountable officer for Dudley CCG, said: "We are pleased with how the public meetings have gone so far.

"Responses received have been extremely useful and will all be taken into account in the decision making process, it's good to see that residents are showing an interest and looking to get involved. I would like to urge residents who have not already submitted their views to take part in the consultation process, and to also come along to one of the remaining drop-in sessions.

"We are trying to respond to what local people have told us they want from their health care system – and the more views we hear the better."

The second phase of the consultation exercise will involve Healthwatch Dudley, which represents the views of patients in the borough. It will carry out an independent patient survey of people attending the accident and emergency department at Russells Hall Hospital and at the walk-in centre.

Jobs go as movie rental shop shuts

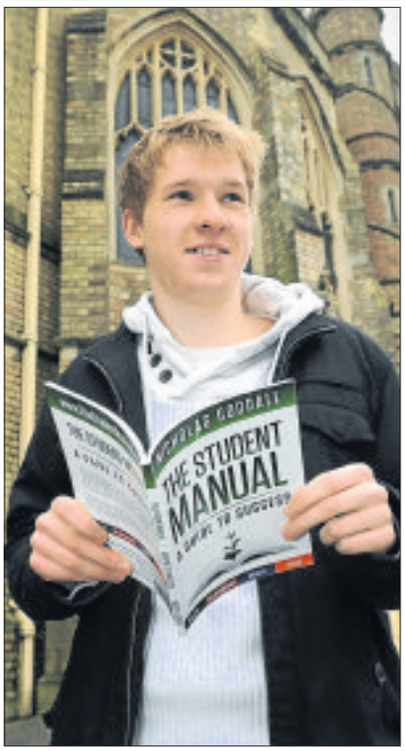
THE Blockbuster store in Stourbridge is to close with the loss of five jobs after administrators for the movie rental chain failed to find a buyer for the business.

The Stourbridge branch, in Bridgnorth Road is among 30 stores that will be closed, with the total loss of 182 jobs.

It follows the closure of 72 stores earlier this month, including one in West Bromwich, and the loss of 452 jobs after the administrators Moorfields Corporate Recovery were called in.

Moorfields said that no 'acceptable' offers had been received for the business.

Student guide



Sixth former Nicholas Goodall has written a guide to help students achieve success, sold via a website

RELATIONSHIPS, wealth and skills are among topics in a book written by a student to help other teenagers achieve their ambitions.

Nicholas Goodall decided to write the The Student Manual: A Guide to Success, to share his ideas and experiences with others. The 18-year-old, who lives near Bromsgrove, is currently studying mathematics, further mathematics and physics at King Edward VI College in Stourbridge.

Expand

He wrote the book over the course of nearly four months before sending it off to be printed.

A run of 2,000 copies of the book, priced £5, has been published.

Mr Goodall hopes to expand on this in future and to update the volume as his own experience grows. The manual is designed to be a self-development book looking at four core topics of health, relationships, wealth and skills.

Mr Goodall said: "I am very pleased and proud of the book. I first came up with the idea earlier this year. I wanted to share my own experiences and also ideas to help teenagers unlock their potential. It can be used by any student at any college."

Mr Goodall has also set up a website for the book at www.thestudentmanual.com

Village gets off-peak train link after waiting 50 years

MID-WORCESTERSHIRE MP Peter Luff will wave off the first train of a new off-peak service being introduced at Hartlebury, near Kidderminster, on Monday.

Villagers claim that the launch of the first hourly off-peak train service in 50 years will help put the area back on the map. London Midland is planning to introduce the new services to and from Hartlebury, between 8.30am and 4.30pm. Trains had only stopped at Hartlebury from Mondays to Saturdays between 6.30am and 8.30am and 4.30pm until about 7pm.

John Rutherford, who lives in Hartlebury and is a member of Stourbridge Line User Group said: "The Hartlebury community has waited a long time for a proper train service."

It's beginning to look a lot like Timber...

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NEWS

Graffiti vandal scrawled tags on coach in traffic

Suspended sentence for vandal Creagan Piesley

STUNNED passengers caught up in a traffic jam looked on in dismay as a brazen graffiti vandal daubed their coach with 'tags'.

Prolific graffiti scrawler Creagan Piesley got out his marker pen and spray paint to deface the vehicle as it crawled along Worcester Street, Stourbridge, in heavy traffic.

by Louise Jew

As members of the public also reported fresh graffiti on the walls of the nearby New Road subway, leading to Market Street, police officers gave chase on foot.

And they soon caught up with 20-year-old Piesley, who was already under a Crasbo – Criminal Antisocial Behaviour Order.

This banned him from carrying 'graffiti tools' in public.

At the time he was arrested, Piesley, of Hedgefield Grove, Colley Gate, was also already accused of daubing graffiti on door shutters at an architectural shop in Long Lane, Halesowen.

Damage

When he appeared before Dudley magistrates on Friday he admitted charges of criminal damage to the coach in Stourbridge on October 4 and to the shop called Inspired in Long Lane, Halesowen, on August 31.

He also admitted two charges of breaching a two-year Crasbo, which was imposed on him in November 2011 for shoplifting and criminal damage.

He had originally denied the latest offences but changed his plea.

Dudley magistrates gave him a five-month detention sentence, suspended for two years, warning him that if he did not stop daubing graffiti he would end up in prison.

He was also handed a new, two-year Crasbo, banning him from carrying marker pens, spray paint or shoe polish, and ordered to carry out 100 hours of unpaid community work.

Dudley South Police Inspector Dez Lambert said much of Piesley's 'community payback' would be spent scrubbing graffiti from property in Halesowen and Stourbridge.

It is also plain that Piesley was certainly no Banksy, the celebrated graffiti artist.

Insp Lambert said: "We're not talking about creative, aesthetically-appealing artwork. This is criminal damage, which is upsetting residents and leaving them with hefty repair bills.

"Piesley's was the latest in a series of graffiti attacks that the council estimates has cost them £6,000 on top of all the damage to private property."

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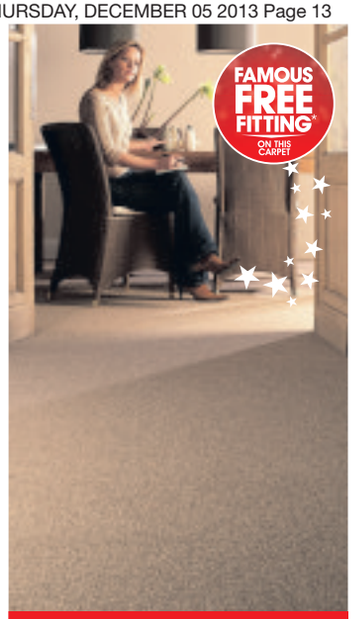

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NEWS

Lights, camera action, at museum

Actors Charlie De'ath and Jennie Jacques filming the new series of drama WPC56 at the Black Country Living Museum

AN EERIE silence befalls the old street of the Black Country Living Museum.

A dishevelled-looking man shambles along the pavement, briefly colliding with a lamp post before continuing his progress. The driver of a burgundy Morris Traveller revs the engine before driving down the embankment – a clapperboard slams shut and normal chatter resumes.

Filming for a second series of the BBC1 crime drama WPC56 was taking place at the Dudley museum this week, eight months after the show first went on air in March.

Actress Jennie Jacques, who plays the lead role of WPc Gina Dawson, and Charles De'ath who as Sgt Sidney Fenton is her on-screen nemesis, were among the cast members filming scenes in the museum's 1930s-style street. Scenes were also filmed along the museum's canal arm, with the familiar cast-iron bridge forming the backdrop.

Series producer Mike Hobson described the museum as the 'Midlands own Hollywood back lot',saying he hoped people would enjoy seeing familiar locations when the show airs.

Sexist

WPC56 is set in the fictitious West Midland town of Brinford in the mid-1950s, where Gina Dawson is the first female officer in the local police force, and has to deal with sexist attitudes of colleagues, Sgt Fenton in particular.

De'ath, who plays Fenton, said it was wonderful being back at the museum again, having not only been at the attraction for the filming of the first series, but also in a film which was made at the museum in the 1990s.

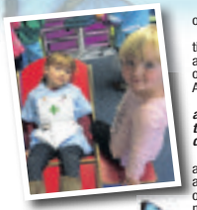
"I was here about 20 years ago when I appeared in a film called the Feast of July, a Merchant Ivory period drama," he said. "It is a wonderful place, and it has grown so much since then, there is so much more here now.

"I love being in the West Midlands, the people are so friendly."

In recent years the museum has been used as a location for a number of period dramas, most notably the recent gangster series Peaky Blinders, and also jazz-age murder mystery Dancing on the Edge, which starred Hollywood actors Jacqueline Bisset, Anthony Head and John Goodman.

WPC56 producer Carol Harding said it was a superb location for filming.

Brooks Primary School and Butterflies Pre-School



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As OFSTED said

"Brook Primary willingly takes pupils from across Dudley and prepares them well for their futures. As a result, it makes a real difference to pupils' lives."

Brook Primary has a vibrant programme of after school clubs, a well established Pre-School and full day childcare. There is a rich programme of visitors into school, trips out of school, performances and events.

Our creative approach to the curriculum ensures children enjoy their learning but there is also a firm focus on the development of literacy and numeracy skills. We hold the Basic Skills Quality Mark. Every child is also taught the skills to become a successful learner via our "Learning Pathways" programme. In Key Stage 2 all pupils have the opportunity to learn to play an instrument and we are an Artsmark Gold school. We have excellent ICT resources including many netbooks that are used daily throughout the school.

To find out more about Brook Primary School please look at our website at www.brook.dudley.sch.uk.

Admissions for Reception for Sept. 2014 are open until January 16th 2014 and we accept in year admissions where places are available.

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April 2014	1st Jan 2011 - 31st Mar 2011
September 2014	1st April 2011 - 31st August 2011

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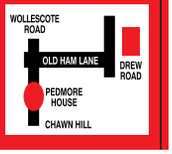

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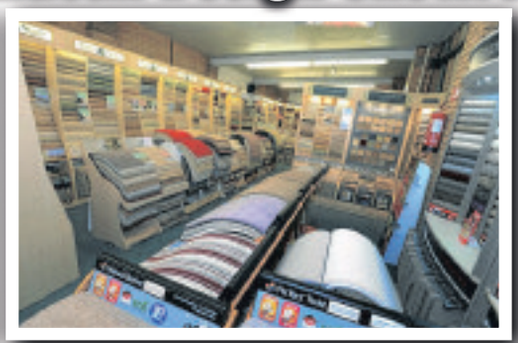

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A FAMILY OWNED AND RUN BUSINESS FOR OVER 30 YEARS AND COUNTING

Police bust £1m Black Country drug connection

Ilir Vogli was jailed for 10 years and eight months

Graham Hurry received a 10-year prison sentence

Martin Brannigan – seven years and four months

Bernard Hopson – seven years and four months

THEIR intention was to flood the streets with cocaine.

But now members of two crime gangs have been jailed after being caught shipping the class A drug across the Midlands.

A total of 11 people, including five from the Black Country, have been convicted over the conspiracy which involved the distribution of high-purity cocaine.

The £1 million conspiracy was headed by Ilir Vogli, an Albanian national living in Rubery, and his second-in-command Graham Hurry from Norton, Stourbridge. They, along with associates Martin Brannigan from Smethwick, and Vogli's brother-in-law Bernard Hopson from Brierley Hill, formed a supply link with a Derbyshire gang.

A police investigation was launched in April 2012 and three deliveries of cocaine were intercepted. It was estimated that, based on the likely number of deliveries during the conspiracy which dated back to 2009, and by cutting it with other substances, the drugs could have had a street value of more than £1m. Once delivered to the East Midlands, the drug was distributed by the second group.

Sentenced

All 11 had earlier pleaded guilty to the charges against them at Derby Crown Court. They were sentenced at Nottingham Crown Court.

Ilir Vogli, 40, from Barrington Road, Rubery, was sentenced to 10 years and eight months in prison. Graham Hurry, 42, of Elm Close, Norton, was jailed for 10 years. Martin Brannigan, 36, of Addenbrooke Road, Smethwick, got seven years and four months. Bernard Hopson, 32, of Station Road, Brierley Hill, also received seven years and four months.

Kevin Brannigan, 40, of Florence Road, West Bromwich, was sentenced to two years, suspended for 12 months. Jade Docherty, 28, of Station Road, Brierley Hill, was sentenced to 18 months, suspended for 12 months. Wesley Craddock, 33, of Barnes Hill, Weoley Castle, got 22 months.

Of those in the East Midlands, Jason Wood, 33, of Clyde Street, Hilton, was jailed for nine years and four months; Khurrum Shezad, 28, of Reginald Street, Derby, seven years and eight months; Matthew Andrew, 25, of Clay Barn, Maplebeck, seven years and four months; and Daniel Atkinson, 24, of Far Back Lane, Farnsfield, five years and four months.

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MEMORY LANE

Brierley Hill Alliance FC in 1964, before they joined forces with Oldswinford FC

Spring Meadow Cricket Club, gated off and neglected

Dudley Town FC, seen in 1985 at Dudley Sports Centre, where Castlegate is now

Wollaston Vics FC in 1950/1951 show off a cup they won

Brierley Hill Alliance FC, now home to an Asda store

Terry achieves his goal to recall memories of forgotten fields

by Andrew Turton

THOUSANDS play out their fantasies of scoring the winning goal in the cup final or bowling out the Aussies to win the Ashes.

And while the windswept fields and grounds where they dare to dream may be more modest than Wembley or Lords cricket ground, they still hold a special place in the hearts of those players.

Many works teams had their own ground while amateur clubs often had half a dozen sides playing matches at humble sporting arenas. As industry dwindled in the Black Country, many of those beloved grounds were sold off to become supermarkets, housing estates and shops.

Now one former player has revisited his old haunts to revive forgotten fields.

Terry Church, aged 71, has compiled a new book to rediscover many old pitches and grounds.

While many grounds were little more than park pitches, others were neat little stadiums. Mr Church, who lives in Wall Heath, was a keen sportsman who played on grounds across the Black Country for more than 20 years.

"It has been a labour of love for me. I played for one or two of the clubs over the years. You would go to work on a Saturday morning then go out to play football or cricket in the afternoon. It was a big part of working life."

Mr Church believes more than 100 football and cricket grounds have disappeared in the south of the Black Country alone. One of his fondest memories is the old Dudley Sports Centre and County Ground, where the Castlegate Business Park now stands off Birmingham Road and Tipton Road.

It was once home to Dudley Town Football Club and Dudley Cricket Club, and Worcestershire County Cricket Club would also play at least one championship or one-day match a season on the cricket ground.

But after part of the land collapsed in 1985 due to the underground mines the site was condemned and eventually redeveloped. Other notable football grounds inclu-ded the Round Oak Steelworks ground, known as The Earls, off John Street and Pensnett Road, in Brierley Hill. It hosted many Birmingham Works League games through the 60s and 70s before the famous old steelworks closed in the 1980s. The ground had been used by Dudley Town but it was eventually sold off to be redeveloped as the David Lloyd Leisure Centre.

Nearby Brierley Hill Alliance had played at the Cottage Street ground but this was sold to Asda. Oldswinford FC had played on pitches at South Road, Norton, and had been a successful side.

Some grounds remain as they were but stand neglected. Spring Meadow Cricket Club, founded in 1929, had been based in Spring Meadow itself before moving to Saltwells Road, Dudley Wood, and then finally to Garratts Lane, Old Hill. The club folded in 2006.

● Copies of Lost Cricket and Football Clubs and Grounds of the South of the Black Country can be bought at **www.wallheath.org.uk** or from Ashwood Nurseries, Kingswinford. Mr Church can be contacted on 01384 292170 or terry church@btclick.com

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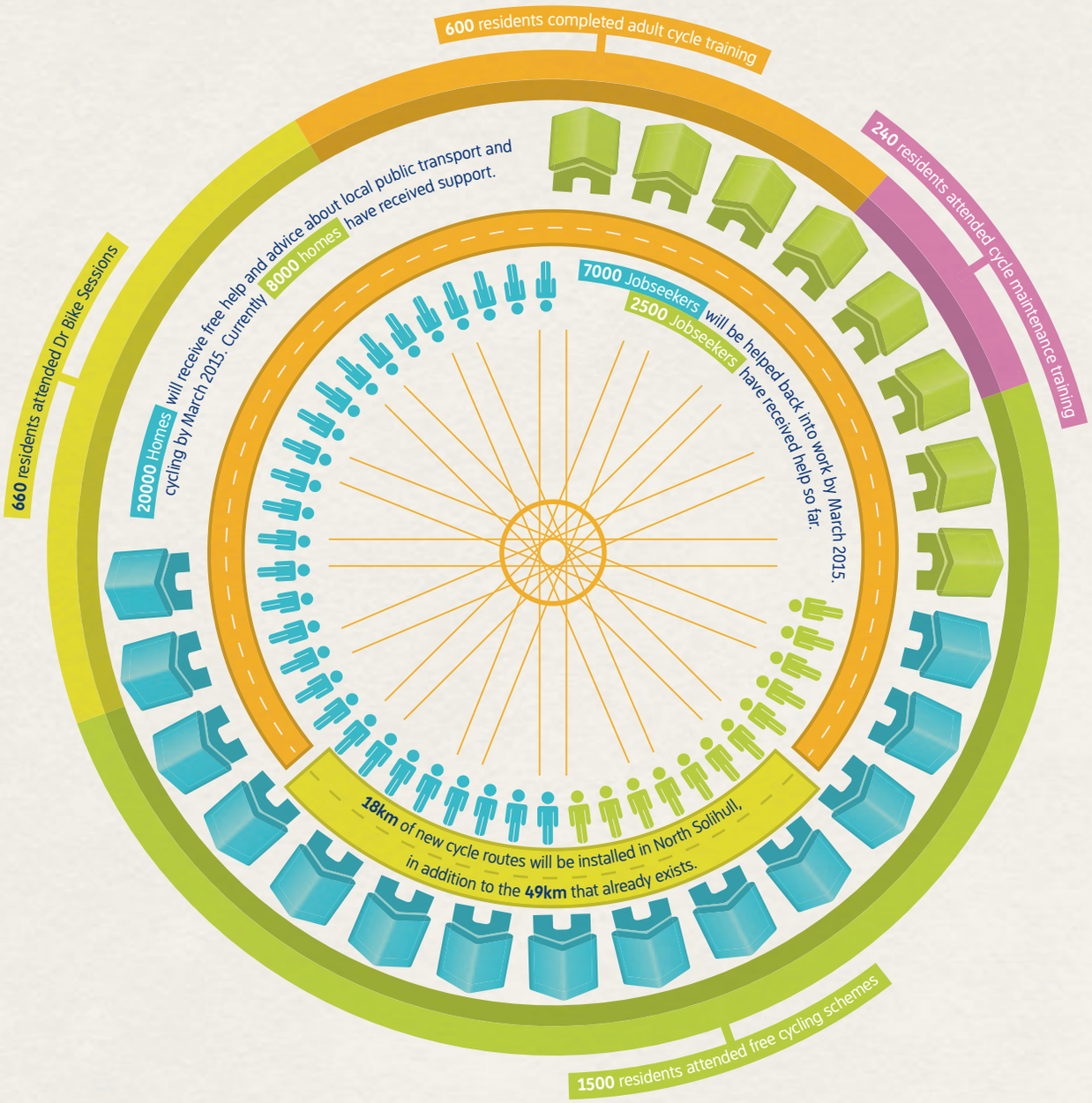

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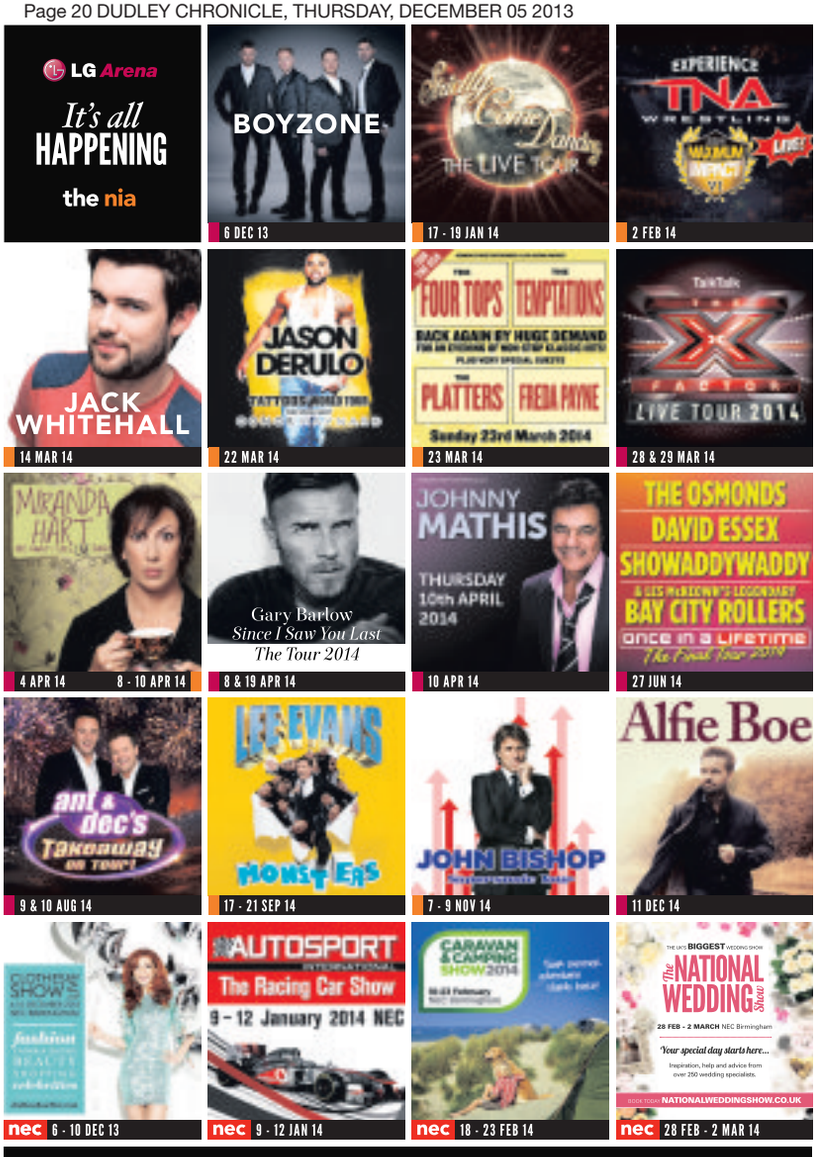

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NEWS FEATURE

Nurse's gift of life to niece

Nurse Maudie McHardy, a nurse in Dudley, gave one of her kidneys to her 19-year old niece Maria from Malta, after becoming heartbroken over her suffering after a previous transplant from an unknown donor failed

MAUDIE McHardy could not bear the heartbreak of seeing her orphaned niece suffer – so the Dudley nurse gave the gift of life by donating one of her own kidneys to save her.

Maudie, a leading nurse at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital, endured a four-hour operation, five days on a ward and three weeks recovering at home – all for the love of 19-year-old Maria Agius. She says it was the 'best thing I ever did'.

Family

Maria's family has been hit by a kidney disease that killed her brother, Darren, when he was five. The stress of the loss of their son and their daughter's illness led to the deaths of both Maria's mother, Lucienne, aged 32, who was Maudie's sister, and her father Pawlu, 31. Mrs Agius died in 2002, two years after her husband.

Maudie, who was brought up in Malta, says it demonstrates the toll that such an illness can take on a family.

Maria had been on kidney dialysis for 15 years after a previous attempt at a transplant with a stranger's organ failed.

Maudie, 55, of Stafford, who is occupational health nurse manager for The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, said: "As the years went on I became more and more sure that giving Maria one of my kidneys was the right thing to do. Every visit to Malta to visit Maria left me heartbroken, everything she did was so restricted and she couldn't enjoy her life like other children her age.

"Her condition meant that she always felt tired, worn out and exhausted. Her growth was stunted, she had to constantly monitor her food and drink intake and she was constantly on dialysis. Maria tried her best to not let it get in her way but there were lots of things she simply couldn't do."

Maria, who has a rare genetic condition, had the transplant at Guy's Hospital, London. She said: "I have to take anti-rejection drugs for the rest of my life. But my life has changed completely for the better and I will be forever grateful to my auntie!"

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MNA Media

Salesman Stewart Fawke denies the fraud charges against him

Company boss Edward Hogan also faces charges

Firm accused of pressure sales tactics over roof deal

A COMPANY boss and a salesman are accused of conning an elderly Dudley couple into having work done on the roof of their home by offering inflated prices before slashing it to a supposed discount price.

Edward Hogan and Stewart Fawke, of Roofguard Protective Coatings Limited, deny duping the couple into thinking they were getting a 'special deal'.

Dudley Magistrates Court heard more than £2,000 was being knocked off the cost of work to remove moss before cleaning and coating their roof, provided the couple made a quick decision.

Quoted

The court on Monday heard the couple had first been quoted a figure of £5,115 but this was reduced to £2,883.

Prosecutors alleged Hogan and Fawke made the couple make a transaction they may not have done otherwise.

Mr Mark Jackson, prosecuting on behalf of Dudley Council, said: "This was well-planned and well-executed. The reduction in price made people think they were getting a special deal."

The court was also told that Fawke, who had attended the couple's address in November 2011, had told the couple the cost of a new roof if action was not taken would be between £10,000 and £12,000.

Fawke and Hogan are also accused of using aggressive sales tactics after Fawke, of Shirley Road, Cotteridge, Birmingham, was said to have not given the couple a chance to discuss the project with their family.

Fawke, 46, denies two charges of fraud by false representation, four counts of engaging in a commercial practice which is a misleading action containing false information and one count of engaging in a commercial practice which was aggressive.

Hogan, 56, who runs the Derby-based company, and is from Chapel Street, Derby, denies two counts aiding and abetting a dishonest failure to disclose information, four counts of engaging in a commercial practice which is a misleading action containing false information and one count of engaging in a commercial practice which was aggressive.

The company has also been charged with two counts of fraud by false representation, three counts of engaging in a commercial practice which is a misleading action containing false information and one count of engaging in a commercial practice which was aggressive.

Defending Fawke, Mr Ben Williams said the higher initial quote for work was a 12-month fixed price for those who didn't want work done straight away.

"Obviously if the work is done straight away a cheaper deal is offered and that deal is, whatever way you look at it, less than getting a new roof," he said.

Mr David Campbell, defending Hogan and also the firm, said the cheaper deal had been offered in this case as there was a team with no work on at the time.

"In business sometimes a deal is agreed for less money to ensure staff have work on," he said.

A verdict is due to be given at a hearing on Thursday, December 12.

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What's On! Dudley

Singer-songwriter breaks the mould

Sunjay Brayne – live album

Sunjay Brayne, One Night Only

TO PUT out a live album you either have to be very big or very good. Sunjay Brayne, from Brierley Hill, is in the early stages of his career so that rules the first option out. Fortunately, he scores on the latter – he is that good.

The album made up of two sessions at the Woodman Folk Club, Kingswinford, captures Brayne's smooth voice and reproduces faithfully his dexterous talent with guitar.

Brayne breaks the mould in a lot of ways. He is a clean-cut Anglo-Asian, his mother comes from New Delhi and his father from the Midlands, and he has added a touch of blue to the Black Country. From opening track, Love You Like A Man, you will either be stomping your feet or you really don't get the blues at all. For someone who is only 20 his confidence on stage is impressive.

The album is available for £12. See www.sunjaybrayne.com

Danny Farragher

Festive classic to melt hearts of all who say bah humbug

It's Peace in our time

EXCITING Worcestershire rock band Peace return to their adopted home city of Birmingham to finish their December UK tour in triumphant fashion in front of 3,000 fans at the 02 Academy on Friday, December 13.

The quartet made one of the most thrilling debut albums of the year with In Love and caused a stir with their appearance on Jools Holland's Later TV show.

With a sound that is, according to singer Harry Koisser, "a bit 60s, a bit 80s, a bit psychedelic", the band met up at Worcester sixth form college and bonded over a shared love of Led Zeppelin.

Peace features Kidderminster-born Koisser brothers Sam and Harry plus drummer Dom Boyce and lead guitarist Doug Castle.

Support at Birmingham will come from Sheffield duo Drenge plus special guests.

CHARLES Dickens' much-loved A Christmas Carol aims to provide the perfect festive treat this Christmas at Birmingham Rep.

The new staging of the festive classic opened this week and runs until January 4 at the revamped theatre, which is now part of the impressive new Birmingham Library complex.

Family

Aimed at family audiences from aged seven upwards, the production will bring to life Dickens' heart-warming and slightly spooky tale of redemption and promises to banish all those Bah Humbugs with lashings of goodwill and Christmas cheer.

On a bleak Christmas Eve, London's meanest miser Ebenezer Scrooge is his usual grumpy self. His only act of seasonal generosity is to offer his poor overworked clerk Bob Cratchit, Christmas day off. But as the clock strikes midnight his world will be turned upside down as three ghosts give him visions of a happy Christmas past, a harsh present and a terrifying future.

Playing Scrooge will be Matthew Ashforde with Guy Lewis as Bob Cratchit and Tania Mathurin as Mrs Cratchit.

The professional cast will be joined by an ensemble of local actors.

A Christmas Carol will be directed by Tessa Walker, who has directed plays for Hull Truck, Royal Exchange and Soho Theatre.

Dickens' story has been adapted by Bryony Lavery, who wrote the award-winning Frozen and has adapted Chekhov. Jason Carr contributed music and lyrics,whilst the job of recreating Victorian London has gone to designer Ti Green.

More seasonal delights follow when The Rep stages The Snowman from January 8 to 18.

There is an alternative at The Rep's Door venue where Bernadette Russell performs her own story, 366 Days of Kindness. In response to the 2011 riots, she committed to be kind to a stranger every single day for a year. In a blend of drama and stand-up, Bernadette looks back via a dinner party where guests include the Dalai Lama, Aristotle and Princess Diana. It is staged from December 17 to 21.

REVIEW

Cabaret, Grand Theatre

THE giant letters on the stage spelt out WILL KOM MEN, quite ironic as there was one very important thing missing on the opening night of Cabaret at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre – WILL!

Earlier in the day Will Young had had to pull out of the performance due to illness and the announcement at the start brought a general groan from the packed theatre.

His replacement, Simon Jaymes, who took on the role of Emcee, did an admirable job but in many parts his voice simply was not strong enough.

But if there was a very good reason to 'come to the cabaret' enter Lichfield-born Siobhan Dillon as Sally Bowles. This role was perfect for her and her voice and acting were superb.

The story revolves around an aspiring writer named Cliff Bradshaw (well played by Matt Rawle) who travelled to Berlin in search of inspiration when he met Sally Bowles at a cabaret called the Kit Kat Klub.

She moves in with him in a boarding house run by Fräulein Schneider (Lyn Paul – whose slightly weak voice at the start improved as the night went on) and her suitor, Herr Schultz (Linal Haft) a Jewish fruit-shop owner. As the Nazis grew stronger, everything was thrown into disarray.

Will returned on the Thursday night to finish the run.

Sue Attwater

Urgent care in Dudley could be changing

We want your views!

Have your say at one of our drop-in sessions

NHS Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group

We want to hear from local people about our proposed plans to make urgent care in Dudley better and easier to access for patients.

The proposals we are currently consulting on include:

- Moving some of the urgent care services currently provided at the Holly Hall Walk In Centre to a new Urgent Care Centre on the Russell's Hall hospital site.
- Investing extra money in family doctor services to make it easier for people to get a GP appointment.
- Making sure that all urgent care services work together more effectively for patients - including GP services at evenings and weekends and the 111 telephone helpline.

Drop-in Sessions

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12pm to 2pm
Brierley Hill Health and Social Care Centre
Venture Way
Brierley Hill
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Saturday 30th November
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Brierley Hill Lights Switch On & Christmas Fair
Insight House
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If you can't make it to one of these meetings, don't worry - there are other ways for you to find out more and have your say. Please see our website at www.dudleyccg.nhs.uk/urgent-care for more information, or ring us on 01384 322777.

What

SATURDAY'S TV 7.12.13

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE

Robert Lindsay

Atlantis
BBC1, 8.15pm
For those of us who grew up reading Greek myths, Medusa is a snake-haired Gorgon whose mere look can turn men to stone. But in Atlantis, she's the love of Hercules's life – and she's missing, having been kidnapped by cruel moneylender Kyros last week. Now he, Pythagoras and Jason are on her trail – and turn to genius inventor Daedalus for help; what he gives them is a sense of hope. Unfortunately, their efforts to save Medusa have to be postponed for a while after they become unwittingly embroiled in the brutal blood sport of the Scythian tribe.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Food & Drink. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **12.45** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **1.15** Live Snooker: UK Championship. **4.30** Final Score. **5.10** My Family Christmas Special. (R)
6.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.
6.20 Pointless Celebrities. Alexander Armstrong presents an EastEnders special, with Nitin Ganatra, Rita Simons, Peter Dean, Todd Carty, Shaun Williamson, Lucy Speed and Shona McGarty.
7.10 Strictly Come Dancing. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman present as the celebrities hit the dance floor once more, knowing success this week will win them a place in the semi-final.
8.15 Atlantis. The trio go in search of the missing Medusa, only to become caught up in a tribe's brutal blood sport – where they themselves are the prey. Robert Lindsay guest stars.
9.00 Casualty. Fletch has to rescue a child from danger when two brothers are involved in an accident, while Sam realises the truth about her own relationship when she restarts a patient's heart.
9.50 The National Lottery Live. Chris Evans reveals the results.
10.00 BBC News; Weather.
10.20 Match of the Day. Including highlights of Manchester United v Newcastle United; National Lottery Update.
11.45 The Football League Show.
1.00 Weatherview. **1.05** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **7.10 Film:** The Stars Look Down. (1940) Drama, starring Michael Redgrave. **8.45 Film:** The Captive Heart. (1946) **10.20** The Sky at Night. (R) **10.40** Reel History of Britain. (R) **11.10** The Life of Birds. (R) **12.00** Paul Hollywood's Pies & Puds. (R) **12.45** Paul Hollywood's Pies & Puds. (R) **1.30** The A to Z of TV Cooking. **2.15** EastEnders. **4.05** Coast. (R) **4.30** Live Snooker: UK Championship. The opening session of the second semi-final. **5.30** Flog It! (R)
6.30 Dad's Army. Mainwaring and his platoon are put in charge of manning an observation post on a derelict pier, but they are marooned when their boat drifts away. (R)
7.00 Live Snooker: UK Championship. Hazel Irvine presents the concluding session of the second semi-final at the Barbican Centre in York, where the first player to reach nine frames will progress to the final. Subsequent programmes subject to change.
10.00 QI XL. Extended edition. Victoria Coren Mitchell, Sue Perkins and the Rev Richard Coles join Alan Davies as host Stephen Fry asks a range of unusual questions about knights and knaves.
10.45 Film: AI: Artificial Intelligence. (2001) A robot boy programmed to see his owner as a parent tries to become human, so the "mother' who rejected him will love him. Sci-fi drama, starring Haley Joel Osment and Jude Law.
1.00 Film: Racing for Time. (2008) Fact-based sporting drama, directed by and starring Charles S Dutton. **2.25** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Babar and the Adventures of Badou. **6.10** The Cat in the Hat Knows a Lot About That. (R) **6.25** The Cat in the Hat Knows a Lot About That. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.10** Canimals. (R) **7.15** Text Santa: Help with Hattitude. (R) **7.25** Sooty. (R) **7.35** Horrid Henry. (R) **7.45** Text Santa: Help with Hattitude. (R) **7.50** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **8.15** Bottom Knocker Street. **8.30** Munch Box. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** The Home of Fabulous Cakes. (R) **10.30** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.30** ITV News; Weather. **11.40** Surprise Surprise. (R) **12.40** Doc Martin. (R) **1.45 Film:** Babe. (1995) **3.25 Film:** Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets. (2002)
6.20 Regional Programme; Weather.
6.30 ITV News; Weather.
6.45 New You've Been Framed! Harry Hill discovers an illegitimate son and observes strange mating rituals.
7.15 The Chase: Celebrity Special. With Karen Barber, Dick Strawbridge, Catherine Tyldesley and Russell Kane.
8.15 The X Factor. The remaining acts have been in rehearsals all week and now the time has come for them to show the voting public why they deserve a place in next week's final.
9.45 I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! Ant and Dec send another camper home.
10.45 The Jonathan Ross Show. With Jack Dee, Olivia Colman and Ellie Goulding.
11.50 ITV News; Weather.
12.05 FA Cup Football Highlights.
1.00 Jackpot247. **3.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.45** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.00 The Treacle People. (R) **6.10** The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** Anglesey Sandman Triathlon. **7.05** The Great Ethiopian Run. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** The American Football Show. **10.00** Frasier. (R) **10.30** Frasier. (R) **11.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.30** The Simpsons. (R) **1.00** The Simpsons. (R) **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. **4.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.40** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.40** Come Dine with Me. (R)
6.15 Come Dine with Me. Chris Newbold hosts the final night on the Kent coast, hoping to keep his guests entertained with his impressive motorbike collection and international menu. (R)
6.45 Channel 4 News.
7.15 Film: Stephen Hawking: A Brief History of Mine. (2013) Premiere. Documentary about the renowned physicist's life and work, from his schooldays to his scientific discoveries and 50-year struggle with motor neurone disease.
9.00 Film: Unknown. (2011) A doctor wakes up from a coma to find another man is claiming to be him, and any evidence of his real identity has disappeared. Thriller, starring Liam Neeson and Diane Kruger.
11.20 Film: Neds. (2010) Premiere. A studious teenager in 1970s Glasgow follows in his elder brother's footsteps by joining a violent street gang. Drama, starring Conor McCarron and Gregg Forrest.
1.40 Stand Up for the Week. (R) **2.25** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.35** 90210. **5.15** Deal or No Deal. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.05** Power Rangers: Megaforce. **10.40** Slugterra. **11.05** Stobart: Trucks, Trains & Planes. (R) **12.05** Stop! Police Interceptors. (R) **1.00** Almost Dead: Scariest Near Misses. (R) **2.00 Film:** It's Christmas, Carol! (2012) Fantasy, starring Emmanuelle Vaugier. **3.45 Film:** Christmas Song. (2012) Premiere. Romantic drama, with Natasha Henstridge and Gabe Hogan. **5.35 Film:** Matchmaker Santa. (2012) Premiere. Romantic comedy, with Lacey Chabert and Adam Mayfield.
7.10 Film: Road to Christmas. (2006) A woman hitch-hiking to her wedding has second thoughts after becoming attracted to a man who gives her a lift. Romantic comedy drama, starring Jennifer Grey and Clark Gregg. Edited for language.
8.55 5 News Weekend.
9.00 The Bible. Joshua lays siege to the walls of Jericho, Samson is betrayed by Delilah in his battle against the Philistines and David becomes a hero after defeating Goliath.
10.55 Film: A Perfect Christmas. (2012) Premiere. An advertising executive meets a mannequin that has come to life, and finds it has become her perfect man. Festive fantasy, starring Claire Coffee and Ryan McPartlin.
12.35 SuperCasino. **3.05** Blackbeard's Last Stand – Revealed. (R) **3.55** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.20** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.05** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.25** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.50** Hana's Helpline. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Pop's Greatest Dance Crazes **7.10** The Best Sport Film Ever! **7.40** Top Gear Bolivia Special **9.00** Russell Howard's Good News **10.00** Kevin Bridges – The Story Continues **11.00** Family Guy
BBC Four
7.00 Frozen Planet **8.00** Shipwrecks: Britain's Sunken History **9.00** Borgen **11.00** Glen Campbell: The Rhinestone Cowboy
ITV2
3.30 You've Been Framed! Christmas **4.00** I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! **5.35 Film:** Small Soldiers (1998) **7.50 Film:** Johnny English (2003) **9.45** The Xtra Factor **10.45** I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here Now! **11.50** Fake Reaction
ITV3
3.40 Film: Columbo: Etude in Black (1972) **5.45** A Touch of Frost **8.00** Foyle's War **10.00** Bomb Girls **11.00 Film:** Gorillas in the Mist (1988)
ITV4
1.00 Live Tennis. The Statoil Masters Tennis. **5.00** Police, Camera, Action! **5.30** GT Academy **6.30** I Want That Car **7.30** Live Tennis. The Statoil Masters Tennis. **10.30 Film:** Scarface (1983)
E4
4.00 How I Met Your Mother **5.00** The Big Bang Theory **6.00** How I Met Your Mother **6.30** Suburgatory **7.00** New Girl **8.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Rude Tube. A countdown of 50 internet video mash-ups. **10.00** The IT Crowd **11.05** The Inbetweeners
Film4
3.25 Anna and the King (1999) **6.25** Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps (2010) **9.00** Trading Places (1983) Comedy, starring Dan Aykroyd. **11.20** Monsters (2010) Sci-fi drama, with Whitney Able.

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What's On!

SUNDAY'S TV 8.12.13

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE

Anthony McPartlin

I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here!
ITV, 9pm
On paper, it has to be said, this year's line-up of contestants in I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! didn't look all too impressive. But in actual fact, bosses have cleverly thrown together some of the most mismatched personalities the series has seen yet. It must all come to an end at some point though, and after three weeks, tonight sees the winner crowned. No doubt the not-so-happy campers will be looking forward to catching that plane home after umpteen stomach-churning Bushtucker Trials and challenges.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.35** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Fern Britton Meets John Simpson. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. **2.15** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **3.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.15** Nigel Slater's 12 Tastes of Christmas. (R) **5.15** Songs of Praise. **5.50** BBC News; Regional News; Weather.
6.20 Countryfile. The team is in Cheshire, where John Craven visits Jodrell Bank Observatory, Helen Skelton meets fantasy author Alan Garner and Jules Hudson explores the wildlife of Beeston Castle.
7.20 Strictly Come Dancing: The Results. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman present as six become five, determining the line-up for next week's semi-final, and Robbie Williams performs.
8.00 The Paradise. French businesswoman Clemence is back in town, and finds herself at the mercy of Tom, so Moray risks everything to be rid of his rival once and for all. Last in the series.
9.00 Britain and the Sea. David Dimbleby sails along East Anglia's coast to explore how the sea inspired artists, transformed architecture and created a uniquely British beach culture. Last in the series.
10.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.
10.25 Match of the Day 2. Arsenal v Everton and Fulham v Aston Villa.
11.30 Film: The Good Shepherd. (2006)
2.05 Weatherview. **2.10** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.40 Film:** The Mouse That Roared. (1959) **8.00** Life in a Cottage Garden with Carol Klein. (R) **8.30** Life in a Cottage Garden with Carol Klein. (R) **9.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **10.30** Paul Hollywood's Pies & Puds. (R) **11.15** Paul Hollywood's Pies & Puds. (R) **12.00** Live European Cross-Country Championships. **1.55** Live Snooker: UK Championship. The opening session of the final at the Barbican Centre in York.
6.00 Flog It! Anita Manning and Adam Partridge value items including a Beswick wall mask at Sunderland's Stadium of Light, and Paul Martin visits Beamish Museum in Co Durham. (R)
7.00 Live Snooker: UK Championship. Hazel Irvine introduces coverage of the second session of the final at the Barbican Centre in York, where the first player to reach 10 frames will be crowned champion. Subsequent programmes subject to change.
11.00 Hebburn. Sarah is shocked when her dad turns up and reveals he has left her mother, while Gervaise is not best pleased when Vicki invites Lindsay to help him record his debut album. (R)
11.30 Never Mind the Buzzcocks. Rapper Dizzee Rascal hosts the comedy music quiz, with Jamie Cullum, Aston Merrygold, Foxes and Katherine Ryan joining team captains Phill Jupitus and Noel Fielding. (R)
12.00 Film: Donkeys. (2010) Premiere. Comedy drama, starring James Cosmo. **1.15** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **2.10** Holby City. (R) **3.10** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Babar and the Adventures of Badou. **6.10** The Cat in the Hat Knows a Lot About That. (R) **6.25** The Cat in the Hat Knows a Lot About That. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.10** Canimals. (R) **7.15** Text Santa: Help with Hattitude. (R) **7.25** Sooty. (R) **7.35** Horrid Henry. (R) **7.45** Text Santa: Help with Hattitude. (R) **7.50** Victorious. **8.15** Bottom Knocker Street. **8.30** Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Storage Hoarders. (R) **10.30** Sunday Side Up. **11.30** Sunday Scoop. **12.30** ITV News; Weather. **12.35** Inside the National Trust. **1.30** Live FA Cup Football. **4.30** The X Factor. (R)
6.00 You've Been Framed! Comical clips, narrated by Harry Hill. (R)
6.30 Regional Programme; Weather.
6.45 ITV News; Weather.
7.00 Coronation Street. Hour-long episode. Nick tells David to leave the Street.
8.00 The X Factor Results. Featuring performances by Leona Lewis and Michael Bublé.
9.00 I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! Ant and Dec follow the finalists' last 24 hours in the Australian jungle, reveal the results of the public vote and crown this year's winner. Last in the series.
10.05 ITV News; Weather.
10.20 FA Cup Football Highlights. Action from the concluding second-round fixtures.
11.05 Film: Red Heat. (1988) Action thriller, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger.
1.00 The Store. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The American Football Show. (R) **7.30** Snowman Triathlon. **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.30** The Simpsons. (R) **2.00** The Simpsons. (R) **2.35** The Simpsons. (R) **3.05** Gadget Man. (R) **3.40 Film:** City of Ember. (2008) Fantasy adventure, starring Saoirse Ronan. **5.25 Film:** Home Alone. (1990) Family comedy, starring Macaulay Culkin.
7.30 Channel 4 News.
8.00 New Secrets of the Terracotta Warriors – Secret History. Recent discoveries about China's Terracotta Army, an extraordinary collection of ceramic sculptures unearthed in 1974 and dating back more than 2,000 years.
9.00 Homeland. Brody embarks on a high-stakes mission, but his fragile condition threatens its success, while Quinn makes an uncomfortable discovery about Carrie.
10.00 Film: Hanna. (2011) Premiere. A teenage girl trained by her father to be an assassin travels the world on a secret mission, pursued by the CIA. Action thriller, with Saoirse Ronan.
12.05 Fresh Meat. Vod's mother visits the housemates, Josie and Kingsley agree to wipe the slate clean and Oregon goes on a hunt to find the only critic who gave her play a positive review. (R) **12.55** American Football Live. All the action from a match in the NFL, as the race to reach the end-of-season play-offs continues. **4.45** KOTV Boxing Weekly. Artur Szpilka v Mike Mollo. (R) **5.15** Countdown. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowertots. (R) **6.25** Bubble Guppies. (R) **6.40** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.50** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.00** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.20** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.35** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **7.40** City of Friends. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.10** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.25** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.40** Rupert Bear. (R) **8.55** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.30** LazyTown. **10.00** Power Rangers Samurai. **10.35** Slugterra. **11.00** Inside Hollywood. **11.05** Cowboy Builders. (R) **12.00 Film:** Help for Christmas. (2012) **1.45 Film:** Dear Santa. (2011) **3.30 Film:** The Goonies. (1985) Children's adventure, starring Sean Astin. **5.50 Film:** Pearl Harbor. (2001) Romantic Second World War drama, with Ben Affleck and Kate Beckinsale.
8.55 5 News Weekend.
9.00 Film: Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves. (1991) An outlawed English nobleman recruits a group of bandits to fight for justice and protect the downtrodden. Action adventure, with Kevin Costner, Alan Rickman and Morgan Freeman. Edited for violence and language.
12.00 Film: Wrong Turn. (2003) Horror, starring Eliza Dushku. **1.35** SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. **3.05** The Gadget Show Christmas Special. (R) **3.55** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.20** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.05** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.25** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.50** Hana's Helpline. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 World's Craziest Fools **7.30** Top Gear India Special **9.00** Russell Howard's Good News **10.00** Family Guy **10.25** The Revolution Will Be Televised **10.55** Family Guy **11.15** American Dad!
BBC Four
7.00 The Bridges That Built London with Dan Cruickshank **8.00** The Review Show **9.00** Les Mis at 25: Matt Lucas Dreams the Dream **10.00 Film:** Romantics Anonymous (2010) **11.15** The Bridges That Built London with Dan Cruickshank
ITV2
2.25 Film: The Little Vampire (2000) **4.15** You've Been Framed at Christmas! **5.15** I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! **6.20 Film:** The Perfect Storm (2000) **9.00** The Xtra Factor **10.05** I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here Now! **11.05 Film:** The 40 Year Old Virgin (2005)
ITV3
2.30 Agatha Christie's Poirot **9.00** Lewis **11.00** Blue Murder
ITV4
4.00 Duck Dynasty **5.00** Live Tennis. The Statoil Masters Tennis. **7.45** World of Sport: The Good, the Bad & the Ugly **8.00** Gareth Bale: Welsh Galactico **9.00 Film:** The Boat That Rocked (2009) **11.40** Eric Bristow: Sports Life Stories
E4
4.00 Film: Never Been Kissed (1999) **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.30** Rules of Engagement **8.00 Film:** A Knight's Tale (2001) **10.40** The Inbetweeners **11.50** The Big Bang Theory
Film4
3.20 The Golden Child (1986) **5.05** The Brady Bunch Movie (1995) **6.50** Mission: Impossible (1996) **9.00** Terminator 2: Judgment Day (1991) **11.40** The King of Pigs (2011)

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Film Choices

MONDAY
Public Enemies, ITV, 11.10pm
Fact-based crime drama following the last years of John Dillinger, whose run of bank robberies and daring prison escapes in the 1930s make him both America's most wanted criminal and a hero to a public struggling through the Depression. His career is soon to be cut short by the birth of the FBI, which assigns its most celebrated agent to bring him to justice. Directed by Michael Mann and starring Johnny Depp, Christian Bale and Marion Cotillard. (2009)

TUESDAY
Tyrannosaur, Channel 4, 11.10pm
An alcoholic unable to control his violent temper is struck when a charity shop worker responds to his verbal abuse with forgiveness. As they become friends, he learns she is trapped in an abusive marriage and takes her in when she runs away. However, his destructive urges continue to plague him. Drama, starring Peter Mullan, Olivia Colman, Eddie Marsan, Paul Popplewell, Ned Dennehy, Samuel Bottomley, Sally Carman and Sian Breckin. (2011)

Tyrannosaur, Tuesday, Channel 4, 11.10pm

WEDNESDAY
16 Blocks, Channel 5, 10pm
A burned-out detective is given the task of escorting a criminal to court to testify against a group of corrupt policemen – but what seems to be a routine assignment quickly turns into a deadly game of cat and mouse as the crooked officers try to stop them reaching the courthouse alive. Thriller, starring Bruce Willis, Mos Def, David Morse, Jenna Stern and Casey Sander. (2006)

THURSDAY
Matchmaker Santa, Channel 5, 3.20pm
A woman is thrilled after her boyfriend invites her to his family's lake house for Christmas, but is disappointed when he spends all his time working. She befriends his assistant, but is unaware that he is secretly in love with her until a twist of fate leaves them alone together. Romantic comedy, with Lacey Chabert and Adam Mayfield. (2012)

FRIDAY
The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift, ITV, 10.35pm
An American teenager is sent to live with his father in Tokyo after a brush with the law, but soon becomes involved in illegal street racing. When he ends up owing money to gangsters after losing a race against a driver with Yakuza connections, he has to learn to master the Japanese style of driving to win and pay back his debts. Action adventure, starring Lucas Black, Bow Wow, Nathalie Kelley, Brian Tee, Kang Sung, Leonardo Nam, Brian Goodman and Sonny Chiba. (2006)

Pick of the Week

The stars come out to shine for a good cause

As you get older, it often feels as if the years pass by more quickly.

Or, if you're a showbusiness type, then the next Royal Variety Performance seems to come around faster than ever before.

Thank goodness, then, that it always features top guests guaranteed to keep us coming back for more. Okay, so some of them can be a bit on the cheesy side, and there have been accusations in the past that the show is no longer relevant to modern audiences, but try telling that to the hundreds who see it live, and the millions who tune in to watch it on TV.

If variety happens to be the spice of your life, then this most spectacular of extravaganzas is likely to pep up a cold Monday night's viewing no end with two and a half hours of the stuff of which showbiz legends are made.

In fact, it could be said that if you're not looking forward to this year's celebrity-packed extravaganza, then there ain't no pleasing you, or that you're (snooker) loopy...

Yes, headlining the event is Chas & Dave, the 'rockney' duo who've been entertaining us with their unique brand of musical entertainment for the past 50 years. After almost two decades of silence, they returned to the album charts this year with That's What Happens, but we're hoping they'll be playing some of their old hits here.

It would be interesting to find out what Mary J Blige makes of them – she's also appearing, and we can't imagine that she's come across many similar acts in her native New York.

Gary Barlow, Jessie J, Olly Murs, Caro Emerald and Bryn Terfel are other musical performers on the bill, alongside comedians Jimmy Carr, Jason Byrne, Hal Cruttenden and Seann Walsh.

There are also special performances from stars of various West End musicals, current Strictly Come Dancing champion Flavia Cacace and Gareth Malone's new choir, Voices. And don't forget to look out for Attraction, the Hungarian dance troupe who won their slot on the show by triumphing at Britain's Got Talent.

The whole event is being hosted by John Bishop, who's champing at the bit to take to the stage.

"As a child, the Royal Variety show was like the Grand National and the FA Cup final – it was something our family always watched, the only difference being that we didn't bet on the winner," says the Liverpudlian comic.

"To host a show with such heritage is something I never imagined I would do, and I trust my parents will be proud when they take their seats in the audience – although I have told my dad not to shout 'come on son! It's not a match or a horse race!"

While the stars bask in their moment of glory, the reasons why the Royal Variety Performance exists and the charity it raises money for rarely get a mention, so let's put that right – it's the Entertainment Artistes Benevolent Fund that benefits, and it deserves as much of a round of applause as the stars we'll be watching on the night.

The Royal Variety Performance 2013, Monday, ITV, 7.30pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY
Fresh Meat
Channel 4, 10pm
Throughout the ages, for as long as there have been students, there have been student protests – and Manchester Medlock University is no different, for this week Oregon rallies her pals to take action when she's outraged by the deportation of a Tunisian fellow scholar. Of course, the fact that he happens to be a bit of a hunk is purely coincidental… Meanwhile, Josie has a bit of a PhD crisis, which results in her being held hostage by Sabine, and Vod has a particularly enlightening therapy session that far exceeds its bounds. And will JP ever manage to impress Sam? Not if his latest plan is anything to go by.

TUESDAY
Last Tango in Halifax
BBC1, 9pm
Celia is not the sort of woman you want to get on the wrong side of, as Judith (Ronni Ancona) finds to her cost in Sally Wainwright's ongoing comedy drama. After suffering a load of doorstep abuse, Judith realises Alan (who's on the phone in the background questioning baby Emily Jane's newly christened name) and Celia are the couple who waited 60 years to get married. Talking of which, they decide to tie the knot again so friends and family can attend the ceremony this time instead of paying a copper and butcher to sit in. Meanwhile, Caroline (Sarah Lancashire) and Kate's (Nina Sosanya) romantic weekend turns sour, and their relationship winds up on the rocks.

Heston's Great British Food
Channel 4, 9pm
Fans of the culinary alchemist have had a long wait for Heston Blumenthal's new series, but here it is at last. As you'll have gathered by the title, this new run celebrates Britain's iconic dishes. Yes, good old roast beef and Yorkshire puddings are on the menu, but what batter, er better, start than fish and chips? With a dollop of inspiration from Henry VIII's chefs, he uses truffle, Madeira gel and sea urchin to create fake fish skin that will rest on a piece of turbot. But will he succeed in his goal of creating a bite-size portion containing the best bits from any chip shop?

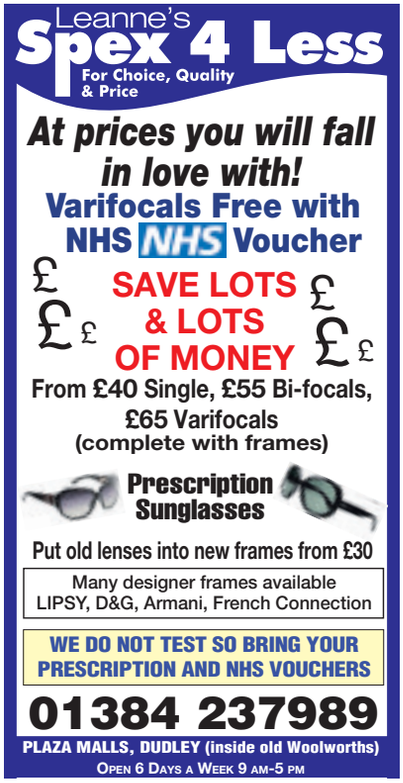
WEDNESDAY
Sports Personality of the Year at 60
BBC1, 9pm
Back in 1954, when the BBC Sports Personality of the Year ceremony was first held, under 15,000 people voted. Now it's one of the biggest events on the sporting calendar. Here, former winners Princess Anne and her daughter Zara Phillips, David Beckham, Sebastian Coe, Bradley Wiggins, Paula Radcliffe and Steve Redgrave talk about their memories of holding the trophy aloft. Gary Lineker and Sue Barker also look back at tear-jerking moments involving Muhammad Ali and Bobby Robson. Whether this year's ceremony, which takes place next week, will live as long in the memory remains to be seen, but the show itself is sure to retain its status as a must for sports fans for many years to come.

Sports Personality of the Year at 60, Wednesday, BBC1, 9pm

THURSDAY
British Comedy Awards 2013
Channel 4, 9pm
There was a time when it looked like great British sitcoms were a dying breed, but over the past year the genre has been in rude health. One of the most ubiquitous comics of recent months has been Jack Whitehall, with the double whammy of Fresh Meat and Bad Education boosting his profile no end. Giving him a run for his money has been Bad Education co-star Sarah Solemani, who's also shone in sublime 'bedsitcom' Him & Her. Now we get to see who won what as the annual back-slapping ceremony, hosted by Jonathan Ross, gets underway. There are 16 categories, including Best New Comedy Programme; Best Male and Female TV Comic; Best Comedy Entertainment Personality; Best Breakthrough Talent, and Best Comedy TV Actor and Actress.

FRIDAY
Derren Brown: The Great Art Robbery
Channel 4, 9pm
We're guessing that Derren Brown is a fan of the Thomas Crown Affair remake, because its climax bears some similarities to his latest stunt – although Derren is stealing a work of art, rather than putting it back. The idea is this: he will take a painting by Turner-nominated artists Jake and Dinos Chapman from under the nose of collector Ivan Massow. He will tell Ivan which painting he's targeting and the time of the theft, and even gives him a photo of the person who will take it. Derren has already chosen his crew, and they're not hardened career criminals – he's handpicked a bunch of pensioners instead, the type of people you might pass every day without even noticing them.

QI
BBC2, 10pm
We can't quite believe it's taken her this long, but comedy writer, performer and all-round national treasure Victoria Wood is making her QI debut. In any normal week, she'd be the undoubted star attraction, but some viewers may be more intrigued by the fact that she's being joined by another first-timer, Richard Osman. On his quiz show Pointless, he's usually introduced as a bottomless pit of obscure knowledge, but will he live up to his billing on QI, or will he be thrown by a quiz where the name of game is to score as many points as possible, rather than as few? Perhaps fellow panellists Jason Manford and Alan Davies can take advantage of any confusion as Stephen Fry asks the questions on this week's theme, the kitchen sink.

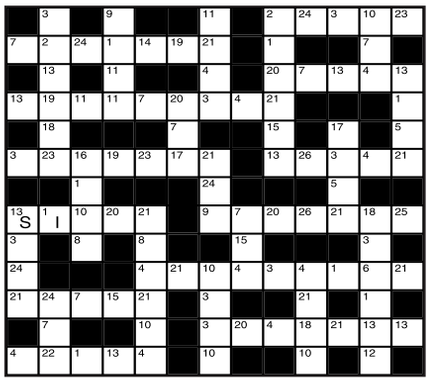


Puzzler

Brain Gym No.250

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



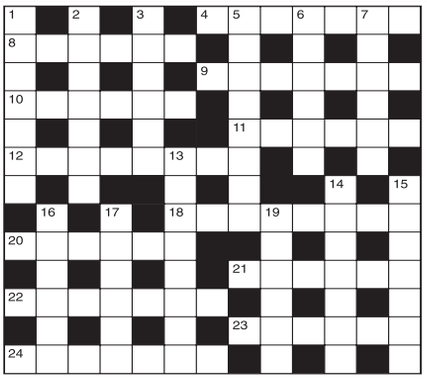
1 I	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13 S	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1 Y	2 B	3 D	4 K	5 E	6 F	7 M	8 Z	9 S	10 H	11 J	12 Q	13 G
14 X	15 C	16 R	17 U	18 O	19 I	20 T	21 A	22 W	23 N	24 P	25 L	26 V

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

4. In a bad temper the day none came round (7)
8. Writer with a point (6)
9. Marked dates in wrongly (7)
10. One by one on the football field (6)
11. You need inspiration to draw one (6)
12. The staidest form of dislike (8)
18. Rambling rose that gives varied resistance (8)
20. Young female accompanist (6)
21. Depression that shows in your face (6)
22. A breach of security (7)
23. Packed as a precaution (2,4)
24. Haircut that's in order (7)

Down

1. Lays out feasts (7)
2. Poetically upside-down (7)
3. Entertainment that's a nice change to mother (6)
5. A bent one needs re-shaping, don't forget! (4,4)
6. Thinks of love and languishes (6)
7. Puts up a secret entanglement (6)
13. Not the more usual foreigner (8)
14. Temporary false tooth (4-3)
15. Guided a horse holding half the rein (7)
16. Statesmen may wear it with a black tie (6)
17. These creepers could be poisonous (6)
19. Possibly tore in from the East (6)

Quick Clues:

Across

4. Narration (7)
8. Aviator (6)
9. Blow up (7)
10. Shrewd (6)
11. Look upon (6)
12. Surround (8)
18. Definite (8)
20. Obvious (6)
21. Nuptial (6)
22. Clique (7)
23. Gusto (6)
24. Keep under (7)

Down

1. Discussion (7)
2. Shield (7)
3. Subject (6)
5. Meeting (8)
6. Constrain (6)
7. Disposition (6)
13. Hypercritical (8)
14. Scorn (7)
15. Rich (7)
16. Control (6)
17. Superior (6)
19. Country of the Middle East (6)

Sudoku

		1	7		9	2		
	3			2			6	
9					6			8
		5	3		1	6		
	7			6			5	3
6		3	4		5	8		
7								6
	5			8			9	
		6	2		4	3		

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

9	6	3	4	1	5	8	2	7
7	5	2	8	3	6	4	9	1
8	4	1	9	2	7	6	5	3
1	9	6	7	5	8	3	4	2
4	7	8	2	6	3	5	1	9
3	2	5	1	9	4	7	6	8
5	3	9	6	8	1	2	7	4
2	8	4	5	7	9	1	3	6
6	1	7	3	4	2	9	8	5

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Disposition; 9 Oil; 10 Narration; 11 Repel; 13 Bengali; 14 Danish; 16 Oracle; 18 Sea-kale; 19 Payee; 20 Important; 21 Lea; 22 Head-dresses. Down: 2 Ill; 3 Panel; 4 Scribe; 5 Trainer; 6 Oligarchy; 7 Comradeship; 8 Anti-federal; 12 Pineapple; 15 Starred; 17 Repair; 19 Pates; 21 Lie. QUICK - Across: 1 Pathfinders; 9 Pet; 10 Reputable; 11 Nasty; 13 Resolve; 14 Overdo; 16 Aspire; 18 Artiste; 19 Dined; 20 Entertain; 21 Con; 22 Free and easy. Down: 2 Apt; 3 Hardy; 4 Impart; 5 Detests; 6 Rebellion; 7 Opinionated; 8 Never-ending; 12 Spectator; 15 Deserve; 17 Retain; 19 Dunce; 21 Cos.

Good Night Ring

"Don't know how it works but it does, it's amazing"
Simon B

The Sound of Silence
This just might be what you are looking for
Available at Boots, your local pharmacy
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This product has not been proven by a Clinical Trial

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Advertisement feature

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Whether you're almost prepared for Christmas, or if you tend to leave it all until the last minute as so many of us do, we're sure you'll find what you need at www.expressandstarshop.co.uk. Within the next four pages you will find a range of gifts for your loved ones, from the pretty to the practical and all with fantastic savings – there really is something for everyone! We've also included a selection of our bestselling homeware items – whether you have family or friends staying for Christmas or are just looking to spruce up your home, these are our top picks to keep you cosy and warm all winter long.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from everyone at Express & Star Shop!

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Outdoor Mule Black (BV119)

Outdoor Mule Brown (BV95)

Albert Black Leather lined (BV901)

Albert Brown Leather lined (BV902)

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The integrated USB connection and PC software allows you to record and store your much-loved songs and albums to your PC so you can play them on your MP3 player. Also included is an aux-in function that allows you to play other devices through your music centre using the stereo speakers included. Available in black or cherry, the hi-fi measures 37 x 31 x 19cm and includes speakers measuring 23 x 15 x 13cm.

D6618 Hi-Fi System – Black
D6619 Hi-Fi System – Cherry
GF666 Spare Stylus £9.99

zennox

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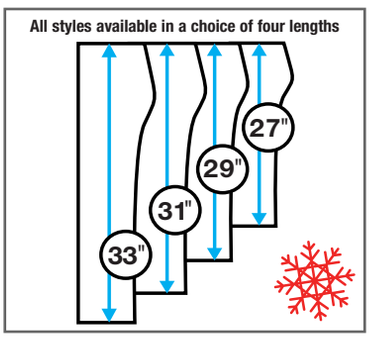

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Made from: 66% cotton, 31% polyamide and 3% lycra elastomer.

Men's pack includes two pairs of black, two navy and one grey, to fit sizes 6-11.

Ladies pack includes two pairs of black, one navy, one blue and one beige, to fit sizes 3-8.

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C128 Men's diabetic socks £19.99
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ZENNOX 8-24X50 ZOOM BINOCULARS

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Freeview

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Pili Pala

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Code D5194

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Made from 100% polyester and available in sizes 8/10, 12/14, 16/18, 20/22, 24/26.

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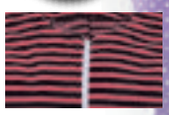
Purple, white dot
D6831, size 8/10
D6846, size 12/14
D6847, size 16/18
D6848, size 20/22
D6849, size 24/26



Pink, black stripe
D6855, size 8/10
D6856, size 12/14
D6857, size 16/18
D6858, size 20/22
D6859, size 24/26

Pink, multi dots
D6850, size 8/10
D6851, size 12/14
D6852, size 16/18
D6853, size 20/22
D6854, size 24/26

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Features include:
- Adjustable saddle height
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When your guests leave, you can simply fold the bed into an upright position and roll it away on its castors to store away neatly. Measuring 79cm (W) x 186cm (H) x 38cm (D) open and 73cm (W) x 106cm (H) x 30cm (D) closed it's the ideal addition to any home.

When not in use you can discreetly store your guest bed away using one of our great covers to protect your bed. Choose from a bespoke fabric cover that slips neatly over your bed, or one of our attractive wooden cupboards that allow your bed to blend seamlessly into the room as though it were a cabinet.

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Deluxe folding guest bed	D6680	£179.99	£129.99
Guest bed fabric cover	D6681	£9.99	£9.99
Cabinet - Light oak	D6733	£129.99	£99.99
Cabinet - Mahogany	D6734	£129.99	£99.99

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State-of-the-art halogen tubes are built into this beautifully composite moulded, 'cool-touch' casing mounted on a clever oscillating base to fill any room with warmth within minutes.

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The single blanket is heated by a 50W element and comes with a detachable controller, while the double and king sizes feature two 50W elements and two controllers, allowing you to always keep your half of the bed at the perfect temperature.

Standard	Code	RRP	Price	Fleece	Code	RRP	Price
Single	D6671	£34.99	£24.99	Single	D6674	£44.99	£34.99
Double	D6672	£44.99	£34.99	Double	D6675	£59.99	£49.99
King	D6673	£54.99	£44.99	King	D6676	£69.99	£59.99

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Enjoy all the comfort and quality of a night in a five star hotel without leaving your home with these sumptuous Hotel Collection duvets. This deluxe bedding is non allergenic and its plush, super soft micro fibre casing and hollow fibre filling is wonderfully lightweight without compromising on comfort and warmth, making for a blissful night's sleep all year round.

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Product	10.5 tog	RRP	Price	13.5 tog	RRP	Price	15 tog	RRP	Price
Single	D5752	£32.99	£19.99	D6094	£39.99	£21.99	D6098	£42.99	£24.99
Double	D5753	£42.99	£29.99	D6095	£49.99	£31.99	D6099	£54.99	£32.99
King	D5754	£54.99	£32.99	D6096	£64.99	£34.99	D6100	£69.99	£36.99
S/King	D5755	£64.99	£34.99	D6097	£74.99	£36.99	D6101	£79.99	£39.99
Pillow x 2	D5785	£29.99	£19.99						

DAYLIGHT LAMPS

ENERGY SAVING PRODUCT

From £49.99 Save up to £30

There's nothing better than natural sunlight to brighten up your home and your mood. Now thanks to our range of special daylight lamps, you can enjoy that same clean bright natural sunlight effect all year round. It's also great for hobbies such as needlework, model making and painting, helping to make colours more true to life and improving contrast.

Product	Code	RRP	Price
Daylight Table Lamp – Steel	D3943	£79.99	£49.99
Daylight Floor Lamp – Steel	D3944	£99.99	£69.99
Daylight Table Lamp – Brass	D5553	£79.99	£49.99
Daylight Floor Lamp – Brass	D5552	£99.99	£69.99
Spare Bulb	D3948	-	£4.99

LUXURY FEATHER MATTRESS TOPPER

From only £39.99 Save up to £40

Turn your existing mattress into a real feather bed – in an instant. This beautifully soft, 100% white duck feather mattress topper will add comfort to your existing mattress.

Wonderfully warm, it's absolute heaven to relax and sleep on. Its deep-filled 'high loft' pockets of top quality, white duck feather provide gentle, restful support and will keep you cosy through the chilliest of nights. Its 100% pure cotton cover is smooth and soft to the touch and the elastic retainer straps in each corner help to keep the topper firmly in place. To add more comfort, you can also purchase a matching feather pillow for just £9.99.

Product	Code	RRP	Price
3" Single topper	D2307	£59.99	£39.99
3" Double topper	D2308	£79.99	£59.99
3" King topper	D2309	£99.99	£69.99
3" S/king topper	D5956	£109.99	£79.99
Pillow	D2303	£12.99	£9.99

Product	Code	RRP	Price
5" Single topper	D6555	£79.99	£59.99
5" Double topper	D6556	£99.99	£79.99
5" King topper	D6557	£119.99	£89.99

PORTABLE DEHUMIDIFIER

From £39.99 Save up to £20

Simply place this compact 60W dehumidifier in any room affected by damp, plug in and let it do the rest. Once its 500ml capacity is reached it automatically shuts off. Just slide out the removable tank, pour away the water and replace. No mess, no fuss, no expensive refills. Mains powered. Measures 22 x 13 x 12cm. Also available is our new large capacity portable 75W dehumidifier, measuring just 34 x 22 x 17cm and boasts a 1.5 litre water tank.

D2676 60W Dehumidifier £39.99 RRP £49.99
D3812 75W Dehumidifier £49.99 RRP £69.99

GADGET REVIEWS

Stocking fillers are music to your ears

SPORTS fans in particular would benefit from the Kaos PDR 1 portable radio, a pocket-sized digital and FM radio with rechargeable battery.

But if you like music, you should also be happy with the sound quality of this small but versatile radio that picks up DAB stations.

The PDR 1 is easy to operate and also has the benefit of a Micro SD card slot, enabling the recording of radio programmes, ideal if you are unexpectedly interupted five minutes into The Archers.

MP3

The recordings can then be listened to on the player or the MP3 files can be transferred to a computer via the built-in USB port if you want to archive your recording.

The supplied headphones also act as an antenna, so don't expect to use the PDR 1 as a bathroom or kitchen radio via a plug-in speaker because the signal will die unless you're right next to it.

The radio does not feel robust but does have a good battery life and a decent graphic display.

For sports fans who want to keep abreast of the scores or musos who can't bare to be separated from Radio 6, this is a good gadget at a good price, widely available on the net for under £50.

The Kaos PDR 1 DAB/FM radio

Ear warmer headphones from Midland

SleepPhones from the superbly named American company AcousticSheep aims to help those who need music to get off to sleep but can't abide chunky headphones or the feel of earbuds.

Basically, it is a washable wicking headband with intergrated wireless padded speakers. The sound quality was OK and the device pairs via Bluetooth with many smartphones and computers. There is a micro USB charging cable.

You can also download relaxing audio from the maker's own website.

One important point though, if you share your bed with someone else then they will have to be pretty understanding because the sound does leak somewhat.

Also, I am not totally convinced I could fall asleep with something that feels like a pair of socks wrapped around my head, or as AcousticSheep call them: pyjamas for your ears.

You can find them online for under £70. The wired version costs around £29.

If you want to keep your ears warm this winter whilst also enjoying your favourite sounds, you could try Midland's SubZero combined earwarmer and hi-fi stereo headset.

Available in a series of designs, from red to camouflage, this iPhone compatible and adjustable set of comfy cans slip onto the back of the head, the band on your nape, and the furry ear pads really do keep your lugs snug.

They come complete with inline mic for taking calls and another cable with two pin plug for connecting to devices such as walkie-talkies. These winter warmers should be a must-have gadget for joggers who brave freezing temperatures.

Available from www.nevadamusic.co.uk, they make a fine stocking filler for £12.95.

Leon Burakowski

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Stop the spread of
Norovirus
NHS Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group
Norovirus is one of the most common causes of highly infectious sickness and diarrhoea (gastroenteritis). It can spread very quickly in schools, hospitals and care homes. Don't give Norovirus a chance.
Recognise it
Sudden onset of diarrhoea and/or vomiting that lasts approximately 24 hours.
Avoid it
Wash hands regularly with soap and water - do not rely on gel. Increase cleaning, especially toilets and touch points such as hand taps and door handles.
Contain it
Do not visit hospitals or your GP if you have symptoms - call NHS 111 or call your GP for advice. Drink plenty of fluids to avoid to avoid dehydration.
Stop it
Stay at home for at least 48 hours after symptoms of Norovirus have stopped to reduce the risk of passing the virus to others.
Dudley against infection
Safe in our hands

Property

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

Improved semi in Lower Gornal has reduced price of £149,950

THIS improved three-bedroomed semi-detached house in Harcourt Drive, Lower Gornal, is now for sale through Wakeman estate agent at a reduced price of £149,950.

The well maintained property lies in a pleasant and convenient cul-de-sac within easy reach of amenities, Gornal village centre and access to Sedgley, Dudley and surrounding centres.

Electric

Having gas central heating and double glazing, the property has an entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, dining room, three bedrooms, a bathroom, garage, gardens and parking.

In the lounge is a fireplace with electric fire, while the kitchen has a gas oven, electric ceramic hob, microwave oven, fridge, dishwasher, electric under floor heating, part-tiled walls and a tiled floor plus a store or pantry.

Upstairs, bedroom one has a range of free-standing wardrobes and the bathroom has been re-fitted including a shaped bath with a Triton shower. The rear garden has a patio, lawn and a shed.

For further information contact Wakeman Estate Agents on 01902 885894 or visit the website at www.wakeman-online.co.uk

Wakeman

team
teamprop.co.uk

1 HAMPTON STREET £259,950
COSELEY
•Improved & enlarged dormer bungalow
•Four bedrooms, bedroom five/living room
•Spacious dining kitchen, study/dressing room
•Landscaped rear garden, two garages
•SEDGLEY OFFICE - EPC RATING D

269 NORTHWAY £239,950
SEDGLEY
•Spacious family home
•Well proportioned four bedroom accommodation
•Breakfast kitchen, conservatory, utility room
•Attractively landscaped south-west facing rear garden
•SEDGLEY OFFICE - EPC RATING E

32 QUEENS ROAD £229,950
SEDGLEY
•Extended semi detached house with four bedrooms
•Considerably improved & well presented accommodation
•Spacious refitted bathroom with separate shower
•Spacious breakfast kitchen & utility room
•SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D

6 TANGLEWOOD GROVE £224,950
SEDGLEY
•Altered and improved detached accommodation
•Three Bedrooms,fourth bedroom converted into a dressing room
•Occupying a pleasant cul-de-sac position
•Situated near to green belt countryside
•SEDGLEY OFFICE - EPC RATING D

72 THORNLEIGH £219,950
LOWER GORNAL
•Well presented & improved detached house
•Four bedrooms with en-suite shower room
•Through living room & dining area
•Dining room/conservatory
•SEDGLEY OFFICE - EPC RATING D

6 PRICES ROAD £189,995
LOWER GORNAL
•Detached house
•Three bedrooms
•Deceptive accommodation
•Ensuite shower room & utility room
•SEDGLEY OFFICE - EPC RATING C

26 DEEPDALE LANE £184,950
UPPER GORNAL
•Detached two bedroom bungalow
•Tremendous open views to the rear
•Ample off street parking & large garage
•Occupying a wider than normal plot
•SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D

29 STRATHERN DRIVE £184,950
COSELEY
•Modern detached bungalow
•Two bedrooms, conservatory
•Well presented & improved
•Superb views to the rear
•SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D

2 THE CRUCIBLE £169,950
COSELEY
•Modern detached house
•Three bedrooms with ensuite shower room
•Well presented accommodation
•Private level rear garden
•SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D

5 LIMES VIEW £159,950
SEDGLEY
•Extended semi detached house
•Three bedrooms
•Potential gaage space at rear
•Gas central heating & double glazing
•SEDGLEY OFFICE - EPC RATING E

4 OAKLEIGH DRIVE £157,500
SEDGLEY
•Extended town house
•Three bedrooms
•Deceptive accommodation
•Good sized rear garden
•SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D

37 WESTERN AVENUE £149,950
SEDGLEY
•Traditional semi detached house
•Three bedrooms
•Potential for improvements
•Gas central heating & double glazing
•SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING E

28 HARCOURT DRIVE £149,950
LOWER GORNAL
•Semi detached house
•Three bedrooms
•Well maintained & improved
•Pleasant cul de sac location
•SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D

'THE BUNGALOW' BROOKDALE £149,000
LOWER GORNAL
•Split level detached residence
•Three bedrooms
•Well maintained & improved
•Deceptive accommodation
•SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING E

2 CAUSEWAY ROAD £139,950
COSELEY
•Link detached house
•Three bedrooms
•Well presented accommodation
•Conservatory at rear
•SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D

25 SCHOOL STREET £139,950
SEDGLEY
•Semi detached house
•Three bedrooms
•Two reception rooms
•Good sized rear garden
•SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING E

100 OLD PARK ROAD O/A £119,500
DUDLEY
•Extended semi detached house
•Three bedrooms
•Extended rear lounge & kitchen
•Some cosmetic updating required
•SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D

33 KINGS ROAD £116,950
SEDGLEY
•Considerably improved mid terraced house
•Two bedrooms
•Well presented accommodation
•Gas centrally heated & double glazed
•SEDGLEY OFFICE - EPC RATING D

7 QUILTER CLOSE £110,000
COSELEY
•Semi detached house
•Two double bedrooms
•In need of some updating
•Gas central heating & double glazing
•SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D

5 THE WYND OIRO £99,950
SEDGLEY
•Mid terraced house
•Three bedrooms
•Shower room (originally bedroom four)
•Majority double glazing
•SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D

3 WALFORD STREET £89,500
TIVIDALE
•Mid terraced house
•Two bedrooms
•Ground floor shower room extension
•Two reception rooms
•SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D

Sedgley Office
01902 885894

Dudley Office
01384 459999

wakeman-online.com

CP BIGWOOD

AUCTION

12th December 2013

At Holte Suite, Aston Villa Football Ground

93 lots to include:

231 Queslett Road, Great Barr

A Vacant Semi Detached Douse

Accommodation Comprises: Storm porch, reception room, kitchen, three bedrooms and bathroom/ WC

Outside: Gardens and driveway

The property benefits from central heating and part double glazing but is in need of modernisation throughout

Guide: £49,000-£57,000

41 Brynmawr Road, Lanesfield, Wolverhampton

A Vacant Semi Detached House

Accommodation Comprises: Two reception rooms, kitchen, W/C, three bedrooms and shower room/WC

Outside: Gardens and driveway

The property benefits from central heating and majority double glazing.

Guide: £49,000- £54,000

13 Green Road, Dudley

A Vacant Semi Detached House

Accommodation Comprises: Porch, hall, two reception rooms, kitchen, store, three bedrooms, bathroom/WC

Outside: Gardens and side garage

The property benefits from central heating and majority double glazing.

Guide: £54,000- £59,000

31 Norton Crescent, Bilston, Wolverhampton

A Vacant End Terraced House

Accommodation Comprises: Hall, reception room, kitchen, three bedrooms and bathroom/WC

Outside: Gardens and driveway parking

The property benefits from central heating and majority double glazing.

Guide: £39,000- £44,000

106 Osprey Drive, Russells Hall, Dudley

A Vacant Semi Detached House

Accommodation Comprises: Reception room, hall with cloakroom, dining kitchen, three bedrooms and bathroom/WC

Outside: Gardens, driveway parking and side garage

The property benefits from central heating and majority double glazing.

Guide: £54,000- £59,000

324 Deans Road, Wolverhampton

A Vacant Semi Detached House

Accommodation Comprises: Porch, hall, two reception rooms, kitchen, inner lobby, wet room/WC and three bedrooms

Outside: Gardens and driveway parking

The property benefits from central heating and majority double glazing

Guide: £39,000-£44,000

31 Wallace Road, Bilston

A Vacant Semi Detached House

Accommodation Comprises: Porch, hall, through reception, kitchen, three bedrooms and bathroom/WC

Outside: Gardens and driveway parking

The property benefits from central heating and majority double glazing.

Guide: £44,000- £49,000

22 Ash Road, Dudley

A Vacant Semi Detached House Occupying a Large Corner Plot

Accommodation Comprises:- Porch, hall, two reception rooms, kitchen, three bedrooms and bathroom/WC with shower

Outside: Gardens and driveway parking

The property benefits from part double glazing but s in need of modernisation

Guide: £50,000 plus

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Please note: charges may apply in addition to the purchase price, please contact us for further details

CP BIGWOOD

AUCTION

12th December 2013

At Holte Suite, Aston Villa Football Ground

93 lots to Include Properties On Behalf Of:

Birmingham City Council · Wolverhampton City Council · Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council · Canal & River Trust

Order of Sale

Lot 1	Former Toilets Washwood Heath Road, Washwood Heath, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant
Lot 2	2 Hamstead Road, Handsworth, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant
Lot 3	Land Adj. 2 Berners Street, Lozells, Birmingham	Land
Lot 4	Land Adj. 155 Wellington Road, Handsworth, Birmingham	Land
Lot 5	Land at junction of Witton Lane & Holte Road, Aston, Birmingham	Land
Lot 6	127 Gravelly Hill North, Erdington, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 7	6 Nevin Grove, Great Barr, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 8	27 Elmwood Gardens, Handsworth, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 9	33 Kenelm Road, Small Heath, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 10	17-19 Gordon Road, off Heathfield Road, Lozells, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 11	45 Chelmarsh Avenue, Castle Croft, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant
Lot 12	25-35 Park Avenue, Hockley, Birmingham	Ground Rents
Lot 13	Sandiacre, Nottingham, Nottinghamshirev	Ground Rents
Lot 14	81 Falmouth Road, Buckland End, Birmingham	Ground Rent
Lot 15	94 Merrivale Road, Smethwick, Birmingham	Ground Rent
Lot 16	16 Salisbury Road, Washwood Heath, Birmingham	Ground Rent
Lot 17	1-4 Jackson Close, Church Road, Norton Caines	Ground Rents
Lot 18	Moseley Court, Wake Green Road, Moseley, Birmingham	Ground Rents
Lot 19	61 Abbey Road, Great Malvern, Worcestershire	Development/Redevelopment Opportunity
Lot 20	136 Middlemore Industrial Estate, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant
Lot 21	Halifax House, 14-15 Frederick Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant
Lot 22	40 New Road, Solihull, West Midlands	Residential Vacant
Lot 23	915 Alum Rock Road, Alum Rock, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 24	231 Queslett Road, Great Barr, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 25	324 Deans Road, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant
Lot 26	90 Whitegates Road, Coseley	Residential Vacant
Lot 27	41 Arthur Road, Erdington, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 28	42 Woodbridge Road, Moseley, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 29	513 City Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 30	Former Coroner's Office, Crocketts Lane & High Street, Smethwick, Birmingham — NOT BEING OFFERED	Commercial Vacant
Lot 31	41 Brynmawr Road, Lanesfield, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant
Lot 32	53 Holifast Road, Wylde Green, Sutton Coldfield	Residential Vacant
Lot 32a	1 Gough Avenue, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacan
Lot 33	The Nesbitt Arms, Churchill Way, Stafford	Commercial Vacant
Lot 34	5 Elm Court, Meriden Business Park, Copse Drive, Meriden	Commercial Investment
Lot 35	13 Green Road, Dudley	Residential Vacant
Lot 36	31 Norton Crescent, Bilston	Residential Vacant
Lot 37	31 Wallace Road, Bilston	Residential Vacant
Lot 38	26 Florence Road, Kings Heath, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 39	The Red Lion, Billington Lane, Derrington, Stafford	Commercial Vacant
Lot 40	3 Hardon Road, Wolverhampton	Residential Investment
Lot 41	52A Thompson Avenue, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant
Lot 42	8-12 Cannon Hill Road, Basall Heath, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant
Lot 43	182 Kingsley Avenue, Kettering, Northamptonshire	Commercial Vacant
Lot 44	89 Highfield Road, Saltley, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 45	10 Crown Lofts, Marsh Street, Walsall — SOLD PRIOR	Residential Vacant
Lot 46	42 Salisbury Road, Washwood Heath, Birmingham	Residential Investment
Lot 47	64-65 Lodgefield Road, Halesowen, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant
Lot 48	21 Hampton Court Road, Harborne, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 48A	135 Kent Road, Wednesbury	Residential Vacant
Lot 49	158 High Street, Brierley Hill	Commercial Vacant
Lot 50	5 Dovedale Avenue, Willenhall	Residential Vacant
Lot 51	10 Hunton Court, Erdington, Birmingham	Residential Investment
Lot 52	32 Green Court, Erdington, Birmingham	Residential Investment
Lot 53	22 Ash Road, Dudley	Residential Vacant
Lot 54	221 Park Road, Hockley, Birmingham	Residential Investment
Lot 55	Unit 2 Pikehelve Street, West Bromwich, West Midlands	Commercial Vacant
Lot 56	Land Adj. 94 Grange Road, Small Heath, Birmingham	Land
Lot 57	**Rubery Market R/o 168-210 New Road, Rubery**	Commercial Investment
Lot 58	53 Bowen Court, Wake Green Park, Wake Green Road, Moseley, Birmingham	Residential Investment
Lot 59	106 Osprey Drive, Russells Hall, Dudley	Residential Vacant
Lot 60	94-95 Brasshouse Lane, Smethwick, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant
Lot 61	233 High Street, Erdington, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant
Lot 62	15 Mary Vale Road, Bournville, Birmingham	Residential Investment
Lot 63	Land at Hospital Lane (R/o 59B Mason Street), Coseley	Land
Lot 64	1 Lower High Street, Cradley Heath, Birmingham	Commercial Investment
Lot 65	448 Birchfield Road, Birmingham	Commercial/Residential Investment
Lot 66	280 Pershore Road South, Kings Norton, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant/ Development Opportunity
Lot 67	15 Hallam Street, West Bromwich, West Midlands	Residential Investment
Lot 68	38 Nicholls Street, West Bromwich, West Midlands	Residential Investment
Lot 69	8A Oaktree Lane, Selly Oak, Birmingham	Commercial Investment
Lot 70	Storage Land, Leys Road Industrial Estate, Leys Road, Brierley Hill	Commercial Vacant
Lot 71	1 Corner of Moor Street & Albion Street, Brierley Hill	Commercial Investment
Lot 72	3 Worcester Parade, Gloucester	Residential Vacant
Lot 73	13 Little Quillet Court, Manor Avenue, Cam, Gloucestershire	Residential Vacant
Lot 74	73 Ardav Road, West Bromwich, West Midlands	Residential Vacant
Lot 75	Former Fire Station, Barrett Street, Smethwick, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant/Development Opportunity
Lot 76	70-71 Windmill Lane, Smethwick, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant
Lot 77	106 Westminster Road, Handsworth, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 78	15-17 Idmiston Croft, Druids Heath, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant
Lot 79	Land 7 bcj Portway Hill, Tividale, Oldbury	Land
Lot 80	23 Holder Road, Yardley, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 81	29 Holder Road, Yardley, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 82	43 Perrywood Road, Great Barr, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 83	Bungalow R/o 107 Edward Street, Cannock	Residential Vacant
Lot 84	24 Holloway Street, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant
Lot 85	15 Brett Street, West Bromwich, West Midlands	Residential Vacant
Lot 86	28 Gracemere Crescent, Hall Green, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 87	284 Tat Bank Road, Oldbury	Residential Vacant
Lot 88	22 Netheravon Close, Druids Heath, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 89	87 Winchester Drive, Chelmsley Wood, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 90	22 Bickton Close, Erdington, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 91	27 Larches Lane, Wolverhampton — SOLD PRIOR	Residential Vacant

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6 LOCAL OFFICES WORKING HARDER FOR BUYERS & SELLERS

SEDGLEY — Sandyfields Road

An imposing, fastidiously maintained, and tremendously enhanced, Freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed detached family residence enviably situated in favoured district with PANORAMIC DISTANT VIEWS from the rear, and within walking distance of so many amenities, schools, and country park. The ENLARGED accommodation provides; imposing reception hall, fitted cloakroom, through lounge, separate dining room, recently refitted 20 ft breakfast kitchen with an extensive range of units/integrated appliances (and double French doors out to the garden); Garage is currently utilised as a store/utility room. FOUR GENEROUS BEDROOMS (three with fitted units/wardrobes), reappointed tiled bathroom with a white traditional style suite. Magnificent lengthy landscaped rear garden with patio, and external lighting. EPC Rating T.B.A. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £365,000

SEDGLEY

St. Brides Close, Northway

Enviably situated in short/quiet cul de sac just off Langland Drive, a superb, conscientiously maintained, freehold, gas centrally heated (combi boiler) & uPVC double glazed semi detached. Accommodation includes porch, reception hall, store, dining room with bay, lounge with patio doors, kitchen, lobby, separate toilet. Three generous bedrooms, recently upgraded & re-tiled bathroom with white suite, garage, delightful secluded rear garden, extensive parking. EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £162,950

COSELEY

Pugh Road

TREMENDOUS POTENTIAL! A Freehold semi detached requiring total modernisation in established convenient neighbourhood. Accommodation includes porch, living room, breakfast kitchen, store, separate WC, rear verandah. Three bedrooms, separate toilet, garage garden. EPC Rating: T.B.A. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £70,000

SEDGLEY

Alderbrook Close, Northway

Enviably situated upon FINE CORNER PLOT (with potential), a superb, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed detached comprising entrance porch, L-shape through lounge/dining room, refitted kitchen with a fine range of 'English Cream' finish units, outer porch & a further store. Three bedrooms (one with wardrobes), reappointed/re- tiled bathroom with white suite, lengthy 17'5" garage & further parking for larger vehicles/caravan, etc. sheltered rear garden. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £195,000

SEDGLEY

Longmeadow Drive, Northway

RARE OPPORTUNITY! A freehold, gas centrally heated & mostly uPVC double glazed detached bungalow requiring some sympathetic updating in favoured district where bungalows are only rarely made available for sale. Accommodation provides reception hall, cloaks cupboard, two double bedrooms, bathroom with white suite, lounge, dining room, garden room, upgraded kitchen, carport, garage, gardens arranged for 'minimum' maintenance. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £179,950

MILKING BANK AREA

Regency Court, Dibdale Road West

An OUTSTANDING 1,074sq.ft and, arguably, one of the finest apartments in this elegant recently constructed block, an extremely light, spacious, centrally heated and uPVC double glazed, THREE BEDROOM top floor example with 180 degree PANORAMIC DISTANT VIEWS. The magnificent accommodation includes: 22ft Reception Hall (89" ceiling height), elegant 22ft Living/Dining Room with wide walk-in bay, 19ft Dining Kitchen with extensive range of maple effect units, breakfast bar and many integrated appliances, THREE BEDROOMS (one with Shower Room En-Suite), Principal Bathroom. Extensive, gated and well presented grounds with two allocated parking spaces. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Price: £169,950

WOLVERHAMPTON

Camberley Crescent, Ettingshall Park

An impressive, conscientiously maintained, freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed semi detached enviably situated abutting onto 'The Beacon' with good distant views from the front. Enhanced accommodation includes entrance vestibule, reception hall, store, lounge with bay, dining room, upgraded kitchen. Three bedrooms (third bedroom enlarged into eaves), recently reappointed bathroom with stylish white suite, garage, expertly tended/secluded rear garden. EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £164,950

DUDLEY

Northgate Close,

A COMPARATIVELY SPACIOUS, particularly stylish, FOUR BEDROOM, uPVC double glazed & gas centrally heated intermediate townhouse at head of short cul de sac constructed by David Wilson Homes circa 2005 & covered by balance of NHBC guarantee. Personal inspection vital to appreciate quality/flexibility of the accommodation. To the ground, 16'5" reception hall, fitted cloakroom, store, fourth bedroom & a utility room. To the first floor, L-shape lounge/dining room & a 'hub of the house' breakfast kitchen with a fine range of units & various integrated appliances. To the second floor, three generous bedrooms (principal bedroom with shower room en suite) & house bathroom with white suite, GARAGE, garden with patio and distant views. EPC Rating:C. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £157,000

DUDLEY

The Broadway

A SIGNIFICANTLY EXTENDED, gas centrally heated & primarily uPVC double glazed traditional semi detached of character with LARGE CONTRACTOR'S GARAGE in popular/convenient neighbourhood. Impressive accommodation includes entrance porch, reception hall, pantry, dining room with bay & double doors through to a rear lounge, extended 17'7" overall breakfast kitchen with a fine range of units, inner lobby, fitted cloakroom & further family/playroom (or even 'occasional bedroom'). Three generous bedrooms (two with wardrobes), reappointed bathroom with white suite & a large garage (17'10" plus recess x 12'8" max), garden. EPC Rating E. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £149,950

LOWER GORNAL

The Straits

OFFERS TREMENDOUS POTENTIAL & occupying a fine corner plot in popular/ convenient neighbourhood, a gas centrally heated & mostly uPVC double glazed semi detached for improvement. Accommodation provides reception hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, store, three bedrooms, bathroom, gardens & BRICK GARAGE to side. EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £144,950

DUDLEY

Dibdale Street

NO UPWARD CHAIN. A quite exceptional, freehold, gas centrally heated (combi boiler) & uPVC double glazed semi detached bungalow that has been comprehensively renovated by present vendors in recent months occupying an impressive corner plot in established/convenient district. Accommodation includes reception hall, two bedrooms, reappointed bathroom with stylish white suite, lounge (with patio doors), boiler cupboard, enlarged/refitted kitchen with a fine range of units & various integrated appliances; well tended gardens & GARAGE with tarmac driveway approach. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £139,950

DUDLEY

Forest Road

An EXTENDED, tremendously modernised, refurbished & improved, freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed traditional semi detached in convenient neighbourhood. Accommodation provides reception hall, pantry, sitting room, SUPERB LARGE DINING KITCHEN with a fine range of units acting as the 'hub of the house' , three bedrooms, reappointed bathroom with white suite, parking, good size secluded level rear garden. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £127,950

DUDLEY

Elm Green, Old Park Farm estate

This uPVC double glazed, gas centrally heated semi detached home provides surprisingly spacious living space & may particularly appeal to first time buyers or young families. Accommodation briefly comprises entrance porch, hall, lounge, dining kitchen, CONSERVATORY, utility, guest w.c., three bedrooms, bathroom, attic bedroom 4, block paved driveway & a rear garden. EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £118,950

LOWER GORNAL

Wealdstone Drive

A stylish exceptionally well presented and conscientiously maintained, freehold, gas centrally heated (recent combi boiler) & uPVC double glazed intermediate 'starter home' conveniently situated in favoured district. Accommodation provides glazed entrance vestibule. store, lounge, upgrade breakfast kitchen with a fine range of units & various integrated appliances, two double bedrooms, bathroom, neat gardens with TARMACADAM parking for two cars 'at the rear' . EPC Rating: C. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £118,500

SEDGLEY

Cross Lane

An attractive, significantly modernised, gas centrally heated & mostly uPVC double glazed semi detached occupying an impressive corner plot in popular neighbourhood within reasonable walking distance of Sedgley's Bull Ring & all associated amenities. Well proportioned accommodation includes superb reception hall (lofty ceiling height), through living room (formerly separate lounge & dining room), upgraded kitchen, three bedrooms, recently reappointed/part tiled bathroom with stylish white contemporary suite & a shower, potential parking. EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £109,950

COSELEY

Rounds Hill Road

A comprehensively modernised, freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed semi detached of character that has been 'transformed' by present vendor in recent years. Situated within reasonable distance of bus/ rail transport routes & many other amenities, the stylish accommodation provides reception hall, lounge, dining room (with double French doors out to garden), refitted kitchen with integrated appliances, two/three bedrooms, reappointed bathroom with white suite, block paved foregarden (kerb dropped) & good size rear garden. EPC Rating E. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £103,950

UPPER GORNAL

Rubens Close

An attractive, gas centrally heated & UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED end 'starter home' occupying a fine corner plot with PANORAMIC DISTANT VIEWS from the front in well regarded district. Offering potential, the accommodation provides lounge, breakfast kitchen, principal bedroom with wardrobes, second bedroom, bathroom, boarded roof space, block paved foregarden & side DRIVEWAY (8'3" width), 'low maintenance' rear garden. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £99,950

COSELEY

Yew Tree Lane

70% SHARE FOR SALE. An attractive, stylish GROUND FLOOR, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed flat (in small block - just four dwellings) within walking distance of COSELY RAILWAY STATION and many other amenities. Vendors' 70% share available for sale (remaining 30% owned by Housing Association who charge a fair market rental), individual front door to 19'4" lounge with well equipped kitchen section beyond (integrated oven, hob & filter), understair store, inner hallway, TWO BEDROOMS, bathroom with white suite, ample parking, extensive lawned grounds. EPC Rating: C. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers around £60,000 for vendor's 70% share.

LOWER GORNAL

Redstone Way

A stylish, exceptionally well presented, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed intermediate starter home at head of short/quiet cul de sac in favoured/ convenient district. Vendors 50% share for sale (other 50% owned by Housing Association who charge a fair market rent) with accommodation including 173" (max) lounge, transverse breakfast kitchen with a fine range of birch effect units, integrated appliances & tiled floor, rear vestibule, fitted cloakroom. Two double bedrooms, bathroom with white suite, sheltered rear garden & allocated parking. OFFERS AROUND £57,500 FOR VENDORS 50% SHARE. ALTERNATIVELY AVAILABLE AT OFFERS AROUND £114,500 FOR THE FULL 100%. EPC Rating: C. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

£57,500 for 50% share OR £114,500 for the full 100%

Jon Stanier

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NEW

BROCKMOOR
HIGH STREET

This unique, superbly presented Detached "Cottage" provides generously proportioned GAS CH AND UPVC DG family accom with a host of CHARM AND CHARACTER. Porch, Hall, Superb Lounge, Large Sep Dining Room, Beautiful Kitchen with built in oven and hob, Downs W.C./ Utility, Large Feature Sun Room, 2 Double Bedrooms (3rd easily created from large landing if required) Shower En-Suite, Spacious House Bathroom, Large Garage, Useful large Basement Rooms with huge potential, enclosed rear Garden and block paved Driveway. EPC=F

Offers around £199,950

NEW

QUARRY BANK
WYCHBURY ROAD

Most pleasantly situated at the head of this of this ever popular cul-de-sac, this attractively presented 2 Bed Semi-Detached Bungalow provides refreshingly spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and DOUBLE GLAZED accommodation ideal for the retired and is available with NO UPWARD CHAIN. Briefly comprises :- Hall, spacious Lounge, good sized Kitchen, 2 double Bedrooms, refitted Shower Room, side Garage, pleasant lawned rear Gardens with southerly facing aspect and Driveway for 2 cars..EPC=E

Offers around £134,950

NEW

BROCKMOOR
HULLAND PLACE

Pleasantly situated in this popular and convenient cul-de-sac close to Brockmoor School, this Modern 2 Bed End Townhouse provides deceptively spacious GAS C/HEATED and DOUBLE GLAZED (MAJORITY UPVC) accom ideal for the First Time Buyer or young family. NO UPWARD CHAIN. Hall area, attractive Lounge, Dining Kitchen with built-in oven and hob (not tested), 2 good Bedrooms, attractively fitted Bathroom with shower, pleasant rear Garden with private outlook and 2 car parking spaces in "bay"to the front. EPC=TBC

Offers around £104,950

PENSNETT
QUEEN STREET

Providing very spacious EXTENDED gas CH and Upvc DG accom ideal for the larger family, this splendid 4 Bed Detached is pleasantly and conveniently positioned and briefly comprises: Large Hall, Downs W.C, SUPERB 27" LOUNGE, splendid "L" shaped Breakfast Kitchen with built-in oven, hob and integrated fridge and freezer, Laundry/Utility Room, 4 good Bedrooms, large Bathroom with shower and feature SAUNA, larger than average Side Garage, pleasant lawned rear Gardens with feature brick built store and plentiful car parking. EPC=D

Offers around £189,950

BROCKMOOR
CAMPBELL STREET

Attractive 4 Bed Detached provides spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and mostly UPVC DG accom upon three floors in this popular, convenient address. Hall, Spacious Lounge, Large Dining Kitchen with built in oven and hob, Laundry/ Utility Room, USEFUL STUDY/ PLAYROOM (former garage- easily re-converted if required), 4 Bedrooms, Useful Computer Room/ Small 5th Bedroom, ATTRACTIVELY FITTED BATHROOM with shower, pleasant low maintenace Rear Gardens with southerly facing aspect and Driveway for 2 Cars. EPC=D

Offers around £159,950

WITHYMOOR VILLAGE
GAYFIELD AVENUE

Attractive 3 Bed Semi to the popular 'Majorca' design, pleasantly situated close to Withymoor Primary School on this sought after development and provides spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED family accommodation to include:- Hall, Spacious Lounge with Dining Area, attractive Kitchen with built-in oven and hob, 3 Good Sized Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Sep W.C., Useful Study/ Office/Playroom, Utility Room, Low Maintenance Rear Gardens with private southerly facing and Driveway for 2/3 Cars.EPC=D

Offers around £154,950

PENSNETT
HODNET DRIVE

Enjoying a WIDER THAN AVERAGE frontage in this popular cul-de-sac this Modern 2 Bedroomed End Townhouse provides deceptively spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the First Time buyer or young family.Viewing highly recommended with Hall, Spacious Lounge, attractively REFITTED Dining Kitchen, 2 well proportioned Bedrooms, fitted Bathroom, Pleasant Lawned Rear and side Gardens and DRIVEWAY FOR 2 CARS to the front. EPC = D

Offers around £99,995

BROCKMOOR
LEYS ROAD

Providing superbly improved, EXTENDED, GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the discerning young family or First Time Buyer, this lovely 2 Bed Intermediate Townhouse is pleasantly situated in this popular address and briefly comprises: Porch/Hall, spacious Lounge, Superb refitted kitchen with built-in oven and hob and adjoining Dining area extension, 2 well proportioned Bedrooms, sumptuous REFITTED BATHROOM with shower, pleasant low maintainence rear Garden and 2 car parking spaces to the rear.EPC=C

Offers around £97,950

BROCKMOOR
NEWTOWN

Enjoying a pleasant position in this popular address overlooking the grounds of the church, this Modern 2 Bed Inner Townhouse provides well planned accom with UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING ideal for the discerning first time buyer or young family, Just a short walk away from Brockmoor High Street. NO UPWARD CHAIN, Attractive Lounge, Dining Kitchen with built in oven and hob, 2 Well Proportioned Bedrooms, attractively fitted Bathroom with shower, Enclosed Low Maintenance Rear Garden and Gravelled Front Garden.EPC=D

Offers around £89,995

QUARRY BANK
ANNE ROAD

Pleasantly situated towards the head of this popular, convenient cul-de-sac, this attractively presented, improved 2 Bed Semi-Detached provides deceptively spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED AND UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accommodation ideal for the young family or First Time Buyer. Briefly includes: Reception Hall, attractive through Lounge with Dining area, neat fitted Kitchen with built-in oven and hob, Laundry/Utility, Garden/Sun Room, 2 Bedrooms, fitted Bathroom with shower attachment, and Lawned Rear Gardens.EPC=D

Offers around £89,950

BRIERLEY HILL
DADFORD VIEW

Delightfully presented Modern 2 Bed Ground Floor Flat ,pleasantly situated at the furthermost end of this popular development and provides well planned UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accomodation ideal for The First Time Buyer or Retired. NO UPWARD CHAIN. Briefly comprises : Secure Main Entrance, Hall, feature open plan Lounge with ATTRACTIVE FITTED KITCHEN OFF, 2 Bedrooms, Fitted Bathroom with shower, allocated Car Parking Space and maintained communal grounds. EPC=D

Offers around £65,450

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HIGH STREET

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NEW

SUMMER STREET

£725 pcm*

Semi-Detached House, Lounge/ Diner, Dining Room, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Off Road Parking, Front & Rear Gardens, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished

TIVIDALE

NEW

ASHTREE ROAD

£350 pcm*

Maisonette, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Electric Heating, Communal Grounds, Unfurnished

DUDLEY

NEW

MARMION GROVE

£525 pcm*

Semi Detached Property, Lounge/ Diner, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking, Unfurnished

AMBLECOTE

NEW

KING WILLIAM STREET

£550 pcm*

Terrace Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Gardens

KINGSWINFORD

NEW

LARCH ROAD

£375 pcm*

First Floor Flat, Lounge/Diner, Kitchen, One Double Bedroom, Bathroom, Electric Heating, Unfurnished

WALL HEATH

NEW

HIGH STREET

£575 pcm*

Modern End Terrace, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Unfurnished, Rear Garden, Off Road Parking

KINGSWINFORD

NEW

BEECH ROAD

£550 pcm*

First Floor Flat, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Newly Decorated, New Flooring, Available Immediately.

GREAT BRIDGE

EAGLE PLACE

£370 pcm*

Apartment, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Economy Seven Heating, Private Parking, Security Entrance Door

BRIERLEY HILL

DADFORD VIEW

£425 pcm*

Cluster Style Property. Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Off Road Parking, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating

NETHERTON

PARK ROAD

£360 pcm*

First Floor Flat, Spacious Lounge, Kitchen, Bathroom, Two Bedrooms, Unfurnished, Off Road Parking

PENSNETT

HEYDON ROAD

£595 pcm*

4 New Semi-Detached Houses, Lounge, Kitchen, WC, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front & Rear Garden, Parking for 1/2 cars.

HALESOWEN

CLIFTON ROAD

£595 pcm*

Semi-Detached House, Lounge/ Diner, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Gas Central Heating, Front & Rear Garden, Garage, Unfurnished

DUDLEY

DONNINGTON COURT

£695 pcm*

End Townhouse, Lounge, Kitchen, Study, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, En Suite, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Off Road Parking

DUDLEY

BOURNE STREET

£395 pcm*

Ground Floor Maisonette, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished

COSELEY

LILIAN GROVE

£575 pcm*

End Terrace House, Lounge, Kitchen, Diner, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Gas Central Heating, Off Road Parking, Front & Rear Garden, Unfurnished

COSELEY

SALCOMBE GROVE

£545 pcm*

Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Gardens

BRIERLEY HILL

WILLIAM STREET

£550 pcm*

Terraced House, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, · Double Glazing, Unfunished

STOURBRIDGE

LICKEY ROAD

£675 pcm*

Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Conservatory, Study, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished

KINGSWINFORD

GREENFIELDS ROAD

£650 pcm*

Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Dining Room, Conservatory, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished

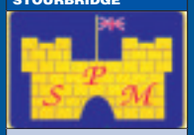
GORNAL

HARVEST CLOSE

£560 pcm*

Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Garden, Off Road Parking

STOURBRIDGE



AUDNAM

£375 pcm*

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BRIERLEY HILL

WALLOWS ROAD

£540 pcm*

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Motoring

Compiled by Motoring Editor Sharon Walters

Snow forecast? Then the Peugeot 2008 could just be the affordable answer

Drive time with Graham Breeze

JUST a few months after being impressed on the launch of the Peugeot 2008, I took another look and again came away with a good feeling about this new arrival.

On test was the 2008 Feeline 1.6 e-HDi 115 version and I was so taken with the option I have already recommended it to a relative looking to buy.

This 2008 is a real money saving alternative for those seeking the assurance of four wheel drive performance because it comes completes with Peugeot's superb new "grip control" as standard.

This system optimises traction in poor grip conditions and puts this crossover into a different league when combined with the 165mm ground clearance and advanced traction control. The system works because grip control transfers torque to the tyre with the most grip in a scrabbling manner allowing the 2008 to even negotiate a ski slope. It comes as standard with Allure and Feline trims, or is a £300 extra on lower-spec models.

The SUV crossover currently occupies less than seven per cent of the European B-segment but this is just the type of vehicle to see sales spiral upwards.

The challenge to all producers in this sector is to provide something distinctive and Peugeot have got things just right. Not only does the 2008 have the cutting edge with the new "grip" system but it also has winning looks too.

Scrabbling

Inside Peugot has developed a new look too with the fascia capping covered in a silky material and a brilliant aircraft style handbrake situated close to the easy-to-handle grip control system.

The 2008 shares 67 per cent of its underbody with the 208 hatchback but has longer body overhangs. It's 200mm longer, 96mm taller and 25mm as well as 162mm more ground clearance. If you are a driver needing lots of rear room then the 2008 should be on your radar. While the rear seating isn't the most comfortable in the sector everything folds completely flat to offer 1,194 litres of space. All versions get ESP as well as anti-skid, stability control, emergency braking and electronic brakeforce distribution. All round air bags are standard.

There are four badge levels, Access, Active, Allure and Feline, a choice of eight colours and a comprehensive range of petrol, diesel and e-HDi engines.

The 1.6e-HDi 115 Feline had a top speed of 117mph and 0-62mph in 10.4 seconds and a stop-start system. Running costs are low, emissions are impressive at just 106g/km and there are remarkable fuel consumption figures of 70.6mpg on the combined cycle.

Many models in the B-sector demonstrate a lot of body roll on the open road and the Peugeot is no exception but things weren't as bad as expected.

For a crossover the 2008 was actually fun to drive with a comfortable driving position and plenty of steering wheel height and reach adjustment.

For those needing the security of being able to cope with the snow or tricky conditions without the cost of four wheel drive this Peugeot may be the answer.

If you need lots of room in the rear, the 2008 certainly fits the bill

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09 Reg Toyota Aygo £5495 or £26 pw
08 Reg 1.4 207 £4295 or £20 pw
13 Reg Focus 1.0 Edge £10995 or £52 pw
56 Reg Megane Estate £2495 or £12pw
12 Reg Proton 1.6 GSX £6495 or £30pw
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08 Reg 1.2 Ka £3495 or £16 pw
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54 Reg Ford C-Max £1995
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Motoring

The most capable, performance-focused sports car that luxury car maker Jaguar has ever produced

Wraps taken off tin top version of new model

HOT on the heels of the critically acclaimed F-Type Roadster, Jaguar has unveiled the hardtop version: the F-Type Coupe.

Wowing audiences at both Los Angeles and Tokyo motor shows, the tin-top version of the British luxury car builder's new model is expected to hit UK showrooms next March.

The all-aluminium F-Type Coupé – the most capable, performance-focused sports car that Jaguar has ever produced – is available in three versions: F-Type R, F-Type S and the F-Type.

The car, styled by long-standing Jaguar design boss Ian Callum, gains the same V6 petrol motor as the Roadster, however there's a tweaked V8 for the flagship F-Type R boasting a considerable 542bhp.

Gearbox

As with the roadster, all coupés share the firm's now familiar eight-speed auto gearbox, although the R-spec car gains a number of trick electronic packages to better manage its extra power.

Being a coupé also means more boot space than the drop-top F-Type, and Jaguar engineers are promising an even more engaging drive thanks to the coupé body's added stiffness.

"The F-Type Coupé provides its driver with a unique sports car experience.

"It combines seductive design with cutting-edge technology and performance which is truly breathtaking. Engaging, precise, intuitive and alive – it is the definitive sports coupé," said Phil Popham, group marketing director, Jaguar Land Rover

Start saving now, as the base coupé will be priced from £51,235 while the range-topping R model will run to £85,000.

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12 12 VAUXHALL ASTRA 2.0 CDTi 16v ECOFLEX SE (165)
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Motoring

Peugeot's red hot RCZ coupé will go from a standing start to 62 mph in less than six seconds

Peugeot's RCZ coupé is chip off track block

FRENCH car maker Peugeot is to launch a hot version of its striking RCZ coupé. The car will hit the showrooms in January priced at £31,995.

Inspired by the firm's RCZ Racing Cup track car, the flagship model rides 10mm lower than the rest of the RCZ range. Power comes from a 1.6-litre turbocharged petrol engine developing 270bhp.

Alongside the heavily reworked petrol motor, Peugeot has included a specially strengthened six-speed manual transmission, uprated clutch, larger intercooler and new twin-scroll turbocharger. The exhaust has also been modified, and features an enhanced 'sound system'.

Traction

A track differential has been added to the car's specification to provide additional grip, while the front and rear track have been widened to further boost traction. Other upgrades include revised dampers settings, plus stiffened springs and anti-roll bar.

Aerodynamic efficiency and high-speed stability have been boosted, thanks to a new fixed boot spoiler. Finally, Peugeot's hot RCZ R rides on unique two-tone 19-inch alloys which accommodate new, larger brakes.

Boasting a two-second faster time around the Nurburgring than the regular 200bhp RCZ, the R variant will sprint to 62mph from rest in 5.9 seconds and go on to an electronically limited top speed of 155mph.

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Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO_2. Zafira 1.6i 16v VVT (Manual5), Manual 5-speed: Urban 32.5 (8.7), Extra-urban 51.4 (5.5), Combined 42.2 (6.7). CO_2 emissions 157g/km.
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ROVER CITY 1.4, 54 reg, blue, 46K, clean condition, 11 months MoT, 5 months tax, £900 ono. 01902 701891.

SUZUKI IGNIS 02 reg, met black, 12 months MoT, tax Jan, PAS, EW, alloys, FSH, 86k, excellent condition, £975ono. 07424 891292.

VAUXHALL Astra Convertble 2002, 1.6, 2dr green, 56k, minor damage. rns, otherwise excellent condition. 11mths Mot. £1,450. 07519 035141

VAUXHALL COMBO 2005, MoT May 2014, spares or repair, £1,350. 07543 237183.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2, 3 door, 2000, X, 3 owners, genuine 44,000 miles, excellent condition, long Mot and tax, £1,150. 01952 461565.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2SXi Silver, 52 reg, MoT, tinted windows, EM, PAS, good condition £659. 07546 438009.

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VOLVO S40 2L, N reg, 80k miles, reliable, good condition for year, tax April 14. £395. 01384 838379 or 07896 936933.

VW PASSAT 1.8 TURBO 2000, FSH, MoT, 10 months tax, excellent condition. £750. 01384 440258 / 07882 413544.

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FORD FIESTA 1.2, 67k, 7 months MoT, 3 months tax, s/h, very good condition, silver, £1,595 ono. 01384 351878 or 07973 859951 (T).

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MINI ONE CONVERTIBLE 2006, 47,900 Miles, Cream, excellent condition. Contact for more info and images. £6,395 07912 315039

PEUGEOT 308 1.6HDi SPORT, 2007, 57 plate, 5 door, silver, 51k, fsh, long tax and MoT, excellent condition, £4,350. 01902 750059.

PEUGEOT 308 HDi GT, 56,000 miles, tax and MoT'd, alloys, great condition, leather trim, £4,599. 01938 580502. 07729 932989.

PROTON SAVVY STYLE 1.1,
2007, 12,900 miles, petrol, red, 10 months MoT, four months tax, airbags, air con, alloys, five door hatch, very good condition,
£1,950 ono.
07879 808929,

RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE, 59 Reg., blue, ABS, 43,000 miles, long MoT, fsh, EW, EM, AC, £6,150 o.n.o. 07940 251557.

TOYOTA YARIS Verso, auto, MPV, petrol, 05, 35k, tax and MoT, excellent condition, bereavement forces sale, £3,400 ono. 01902 663650.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2
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07973 859951/01384 351878.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2sxi. Silver, 05 plate. Rare ac model. FSH. 29k miles. MOT Aug 14. Warranty / part ex ava £2495 ono. 07543 481453 T

VAUXHALL CORSA
2009, 16,500 miles, red, electric windows, air con, fsh, long MoT, central locking, CD.
£4,800 ono.
07968 284932.

VAUXHALL ZAFIRA MPV Live, 2.0 diesel, 2004, black, road tax end April, 3 former keepers, MoT end of October 14, £1,695. 07950 129403.

VW POLO 1.2 2005, MoT, 65k miles, very good condition, £2,200 ono. 01902 372161.

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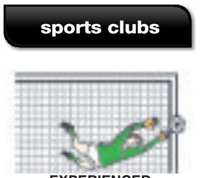

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MARIA gorgeous outgoing bbw 27, good fun, caring, romantic, looking for that special someone to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408733** 📱

KIM attractive single lady new to area looking for meet new friends and maybe a new love interest. I have many hobbies and am interesting to know, pls call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408489** 📱

TAYLOR attractive very busty curvy black female looking for fun times with open-minded male who is also looking for fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408311** 📱

BETHANY 25yr old blonde, slim size 10 with great personality, looking for nice guy to share my life with, single dad welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408253** 📱

FEMALE many interests, seeks male, 40-55 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408537**

ABBA girl blonde lookalike, size 16, attractive, bubbly, OHAC, seeking solvent, refined, handsome guy with full head of hair, 5ft 9ins plus, professional and courteous. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409151** 📱

NEETA Black beauty, classy, intelligent 21yrs, loves to enjoy life, have lots of fun and be spoilt, give me a call. Any age, looks and status. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409101** 📱

SAM, 35yrs, own business, sexy, loves dressing up and married, seeks discreet man for casual meetings. Can travel anywhere. ACA. **Tel No: 0905 002 1961 Box No: 408297**

HI I'm Jo, first timer, newly divorced perfect size 10, blonde, attractive, tactile and looking to fall in love again. Age unimportant, dad welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409089** 📱

SUSIE 32yr old nurse who likes cosy nights in with a good bottle of wine and spending quality times with great company, if you feel the same pls get in touch. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408877** 📱

ANNA, busty mature lady seeks no strings discreet meetings with male any age or location. **Tel No: 0905 002 1956 Box No: 366019**

BABS 27yrs slender with dark haired passionate Italian who loves to dance, eat out, looking for nice n/s male to spend quality adult time with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407943** 📱

SUSIE, seeks fifty shades of grey with guy any age but must be discreet, call and I will explain why. **Tel No: 0905 002 1957 Box No: 407321**

BUBBLY 60 plus lady, slim, fair hair, comfy in jeans and leather jacket, seeks similar male for friendship etc. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408859**

JENNY single independent attractive lady, tall and leggy, sensual and looking for very special male friend. Only genuine callers pls. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408285** 📱

CHRIS blue eyed blonde single female, lots of interests, loves travel, beach, nights in/out, looking for mature sincere gent for possible ltr. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407615** 📱

HI I'm Pam, cuddly, attractive, self-sufficient, employed, looking for similar young looking, sincere male for hopeful ltr. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407933** 📱

28YR old female, seeking male with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408639**

MIXED raced lady, 34, widely travelled, seeking gent, 30-40 for romance. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408429**

68YR old lady, likes gardening, meals out, days out, looking for sincere gent to share time with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408413**

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*TEXT: 80098 Cost £1.50/msg received, for full t&cs see below

SUE attractive lonely brunette who loves eves in/out, music, WLTM someone sincere to love and get close to, why not give me a call? **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407021** 📱

CURVY Irish female 35yrs looking for fun, frolics, weekends away and lots of excitement with reliable male, discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407603** 📱

SLIM active lady, 60's, N/S, seeks honest, kind gent, 57-62 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407693**

ANNABELLA board attractive 30 something nurse wanting healing hands for no strings fun. No TLC required. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407449** 📱

SUE 40's female who enjoys evenings in/out looking for someone to have some fun and hopefully get close to, go on, give me a ring. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407019** 📱

ATTRACTIVE female, young 49, 5ft 7ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, genuine, loyal, easygoing, GSOH, seeks tall, handsome male, 40-50 for fun times, friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406135**

LITTLE bit nice and definitely a little bit naughty! Imaginative curvy blonde seeks male for kisses and cuddles. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 363428**

62YR old female, widowed, small, slim, attractive, kind, outgoing, likes meals out, dancing, holidays, nights in, seeking professional gent. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394106**

CAROL 36, looking for older experienced gent 50-70yrs for fun times only, discretion assured and expected. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401853** 📱

MANDY divorced independent 46yr old single mum, confident, bubbly and social, looking for male companion to share good times and to be there for each other. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407469** 📱

NICKY 26 fun single female who has been on her own far too long desperately seeking her Prince Charming, must be tactile and possess the ability to fall in love, **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407485** 📱

MICHELLE lonely singleton, fit/slender, passionate, easy-going seeks male to cook for and generally spoil rotten in exchange for great companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407501** 📱

HEATHER larger than life, cuddly built lady, scrubs up pretty well, employed, OHAC, GSOH, looking for good times with willing male, fun times guaranteed. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407307** 📱

NICKY loving caring gorgeous fun young lady who loves swimming, dancing and lots more, seeking male for text chats and fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407459** 📱

BLACK female, 45, seeking older gent, 60 plus who knows how to look after a lady. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407787**

PAM 71, feels younger, lots to give, socialising, theatre, country walks, charity work, seeking male to share interests with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407851**

LOVING caring young 67yr old female, 5ft 2ins, slim size 12, brown hair, likes meals out, GSOH, smoker, seeks slim, smart male with GSOH, 58-62. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 364651**

SINGLE MEN

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GENT 55, slightly mad, but not bad, will make you glad you answered his ad! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408973** 📱

TALL intelligent, professional fit guy, 50's, athletic, seeks good natured, intelligent female, 50-57 for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408991** 📱

LONELY male, 55, seeks Indian/Jamaican female, 25 plus for sincere relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408957**

ATTRACTIVE male, 55, seeks older female, 50-70 for close, adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397189**

GARY 40, tall, dark hair, seeks female, 30-50 for fun and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409207** 📱

GENEROUS male, 6ft, GSOH, likes music, DIY, seeks attractive lady to spoil and pamper. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409019**

TONY 55, dark hair, 6ft, confident, outgoing, seeks mature, attractive female, 68 plus, genuine ad. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408989**

FUN loving male, 47, lots to give, looking for genuine lady for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409159**

32YR old slim, dark haired, adventurous, creative, likes music, cycling and photography, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 352753**

MATURE male, lonely, no ties, attractive, likes TV, reading, walks, holidays, meals out, seeks attractive, smart female, 65-72 to share simple things in life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408183**

MAURICE Shropshire farmer, 43, seeks farming lady of any age to share the good things in life with view to LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 374021**

MALE 58, good looking, placid, seeks honest, loyal, caring female with view to becoming soul mates. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400313**

SINGLE male, youthful, serene, seeks similar down to earth non materialistic female to become everlasting soul mates. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407711**

CHRIS divorced, 55, smoker, seeks female, 30-45 for lasting relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407715**

GENUINE good looking male, 39, WLTM genuine, pretty female, 24-42 for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407753**

SHY 60yr old male, seeks genuine female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407847**

MARK 44, 6ft, dark hair, businessman, interesting, seeking sporty female for meals out, day trips, country walks etc. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408571**

FUN loving male, 5ft 10ins, slim, GSOH, seeks mature female, 50-65 for meals out and daytime relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408185**

JIMMY 53 good looking, fit, genuine, honest, very loving and looking for the same in a woman. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397157**

JOHN 59, 5ft 8ins, OHAC, GSOH, seeks lady, 46-55, likes meals out and in. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403273**

TIM easygoing honest male, discreet, uninhibited, seeks similar non conformist averagely attractive, N/S female up to 65. Notts. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 375065**

GENT 48, youthful outlook, likes countryside, keep fit, karaoke, seeks soul mate for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408411**

MATURE land owner, GSOH, youthful outlook, likes countryside, socialising, history, seeks lady who appreciates good food/conversation with view to relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408417**

BROADMINDED 42yr old male, GSOH, caring, loving good personality seeks female for fun friendship, relationship and adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404623**

GAY SINGLES

GAY guy 58, Shropshire, seeks male 30-80 for friend, companion or long term relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407819**

MALE 34, attractive, 5ft 10ins, blue eyes, blond hair, seeks slim male for fun relationship. Any area, can travel. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 311892**

BI male, divorced, own business, generous, fit, 50, seeks male, any nationality, 18-45 for good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409009** 📱

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Championship boxing makes a return

by Craig Birch

CHAMPIONSHIP boxing returned to Wolverhampton Civic Hall at the weekend with Leicestershire fighter Louis Norman becoming the new English flyweight title holder.

Shepshed's Norman took the belt after coming on strong in the second half of a 10-round fight against Northampton's Nathan Reeve, taking the decision with all three judges.

Robert Chalmers had it close at 96-95, John Keane decided on 97-94 and Terry O'Connor scored 97-93. Going the distance took nothing away from a big battle between the two little men. The card's other title fight saw Burton's Tom Shaw shed blood, sweat and tears to be crowned British Masters Bronze welterweight champion, in a fight contested over eight rounds.

He was sliced open by a clash of heads in the second round but battled on to lose just one round against Chesterfield's Kris Davey, deservedly handed the spoils by 79-73 with Chalmers.

On the under-card, Tipton's Ricky Summers finished a nightmare 2013 with a bang as a first round stoppage marked his first inside-the-distance victory as a professional.

The light heavyweight bashed about the only-once-stopped Joe Walsh, with a clubbing right hook that made him sink to the canvas.

Walsh rose but returned to his knees, clearly in great pain, with Chalmers taking action to end the bout in just 142 seconds.

Wolverhampton's Des Bowater scored a hard-fought super featherweight victory over a capable adversary in Swindon's Joe Beeden. A points shut-out was recorded at 40-36 with Chalmers.

'The Wednesfield Warrior' had to battle to take all of the four rounds.

Bloxwich's Luke Paddock added the experienced Graham Fearn to his winning record as he moved to 5-0 as a professional at light welterweight.

Redditch's Andrew Robinson, a product of Lions ABC in Dudley, bloodied the nose of Mark Till as he also recorded a four-round points landslide.

Swadlincote's Craig Wilshee dropped Luke Osman twice in the third round of their super middleweight contest to score 40-34 on points with Chalmers.

In the show's opener, debutant Paul Holt saw off Michael Stupart, again at super featherweight. The heavy-handed Brummie had his opponent running for cover to win by 40-36 on points.

Meanwhile, amateur super heavyweight Lloyd Ransom bowed out of the ABA Novice competition at the national semi-final stage after a majority points defeat on Saturday afternoon.

Cleaner work from Luke Watkins, from Fitzpatrick's in Swindon, led him to the final.

Old Hales let victory slip away from them

Hinckley 30
Old Halesonians 1sts 26

OLD Halesonians travelled to Hinckley for a difficult fixture on the back of a loss to Broadstreet last week,

Hales dominated from the kick off and even opened the scoring with Chris Hooper.

This continued for much of the first half with Joe Oxford spriting for the line to score.

Hinckley fought back to force two penalties for infringement, both converted.

The second half started in the same way Luke Smith taking the score to 6-19.

The home side started to get their act together and were awarded a try 50 minutes into the game. On 65 minutes Hooper dummied to break through for his second try .

Then Hales conceded another which was converted. Hales were penalised for collapsing the maul and penalty try was awarded.

Hinckley again drove forward to the visitors line, a maul ensued with all of the home team taking part to drive over in the dying minutes,

Tivs let the opposition get back in

Tividale FC 1
Westfields FC 1

IN WHAT was their 100th Midland Football Alliance fixture, Tividale will feel these were definitely two points dropped after dominating this game but failing to finish off Westfields.

Once again Tividale started at a tempo before man of the moment Nathan Waite extended his run of goalsto put Tividale 1-0 up.

The second half was much the same with Tividale threatening but not converting. Westfields were growing in confidence.

As the chances came and went there grew an inevitability that this was not going to end 1-0 and if Tividale did not score Westfields would.

Westfields won another avoidable free kick on the edge of the Tividale box. Up stepped Jones and this time his cross was met by centre back Phil Glover whose header came off the crossbar but Westfields' Dene Whittall-Williams reacted and grabbed the equaliser.

Tipton finally crack the jinx of winning away

Kirby Muxloe 0 Tipton Town 2

TIPTON'S away day woes finally came to an end as a closely contested clash eventually swung the way of the visitors.

Tipton gave a debut to new signing Andy Dicken in the middle of the park and his tireless breaking up of play proved to be a vital contribution to the win. The first half was characterised by plenty of intense football but very few clear-cut goalscoring opportunities. Kirkby arguably had the best of what chances in front of goal there were with Nathaniel McIntosh teeing up Ryan Seal for a shot in the area which was badly mistimed.

Seal had Tipton in disarray five minutes later when he shot wide under minimal pressure following excellent work by Brett Darby.

It was Darby's turn to try for goal on 41 minutes when an incisive break by the home side saw him gifted an opportunity he narrowly failed to convert.

Kirby were left to rue these chances with just three minutes to the break when Mensah Kinch surged into the right hand side of the penalty area and unleashed a shot past the despairing grasp of Elliot Shilliam.

It was to be one of Kinch's last contributions as a niggling injury saw him withdrawn just after the break.

Kirby pressed hard for an equaliser in the second half and, although not quite dominating the chances in the same way as before the break, always looked dangerous.

McIntosh spurned a

Football

shooting chance on 53 minutes after a spell of sustained possession by the home side and Darby called Pemberton into action on 70 minutes with a good save.

Bookended between these chances was one for Marvin Nisbett on 59 minutes when he did well to work his way into the Kirby box and fashion a shooting chance, only for Shilliam to spread himself and deny the goal.

Substitute Matt Weyman entered the fray on 70 minutes and almost grabbed his first goal.

But Weyman's persistence told and on 73 minutes he slotted home after good work from Nisbett.

Kirby continued to press hard, believing they could still get something from the game.

With 10 minutes to go, a Jordan Holmes header from Adam Hohm's free kick sailed over the bar and, with the game moving into stoppage time, Jamie Allen headed home only to see the linesman's flag deny the home side a consolation.

Benbow bouncing with a hat-trick in shutout

A happy hat-trick star Luke Benbow scores one of his three goals in the seven goal shutout of Weymouth

Stourbridge 7 Weymouth 0

STOURBRIDGE slammed seven goals past Weymouth in their final home match before their big FA Cup game at Stevenage this coming weekend.

A focussed Glassboys side made a bright start and they were rewarded with the opening goal of the afternoon on 12 minutes.

Ben Billingham split the visiting defence with his pass that played Ryan Rowe in through the right channel area and he dinked the ball past the advancing Jason Matthews.

Luke Benbow was found in space and he burst into the left-hand side of the area before slipping his shot under Matthews' body as he was closed down by Michael Walker.

Weymouth were undone by a Coleman goal-kick that bounced over the head of Nathan Walker to let in Benbow. He got the better of Ashley Wells before neatly clipping the ball over Matthews to finish and then in the 39th minute Haynes played the ball down the right-flank to Billingham and he touched the ball inside past Michael Walker before tucking away a low angled left-foot drive past Matthews.

Benbow completed his hat-trick in the second half. Four minutes from time Chris Knight grabbed the sixth and Washbourne got the last score.

Hayes put a stop to their run of defeats

Heath Hayes 2
Tipton Town 1

HAYES finally ended their run of six straight defeats in the Midland Alliance with a deserved win over their Black country neighbours.

Town were much the better team early on and they squandered several chances but it was the home side who drew first blood when Alex Imferey ran through to plant the ball wide of keeper Jamie Pemberton's reach.

Soon after Imerfrey had to leave the field following a heavy challenge from Rob Perks.

Dave Waple came on and with his first real contribution he laid on a fine ball for Tom Green to fire home a powerful volley.

Almost from the restart Green had a good chance to increase the lead but dragged his shot wide.

The visitors where enjoying plenty of possesion but the home side were fighting with a dogged determination and always looked dangerous on the break.

The home defence finally cracked on 85minutes when a header from Ashton struck the bar and the rebound was forced home by Ben Hadley.

New squad proves too much for DK

Dudley K-ford U-13s 0
Walsall U-13s 34

WALSALL, fielding a rugby team with several new players, eventually proved too strong for a battling DK squad.

The first half was evenly matched with both teams impressive in attack and defence.

Walsall slowly began to apply more pressure and attacks involving forwards and backs resulted in the visitors scoring first.

The Walsall's defence was equally as effective as their attack and they did well to repel several good DK attacks.

● The Stourbridge Lions Seconds had so many players available they took two sides to Kidderminster, the A team winning 41-0 against their Seconds and the B team victorious 23-17 against their Thirds.

The Lions Thirds (The Grasshoppers) enjoyed thumping 72-0 victory over Ross on Wye Seconds.

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Sales of tickets for cup clash booming

STOURBRIDGE look set to be backed by almost 1,000 fans when they attempt an FA Cup giant-killing at Stevenage this Saturday.

The Glassboys have already sold half of their 1,400 allocation for the second round tie at the Lamex Stadium and hope to sell several hundred more in the next few days.

With an attendance of around 3,000 expected at the game, it means Stour's following could make up at least a third of the crowd.

Chairman Andy Pountney said: "We are really pleased with how sales have gone so far and we are hoping to sell a few more in the coming days," he said.

"There is a real buzz around the place at the minute.

"Without a doubt memories of two years ago when we played away at Plymouth are fresh in the mind. There seem to be a lot of noticeable similarities with that game.

"We've never got to the third round of the cup before and we are certainly going there with plenty of confidence."

Tickets are on sale at the Milk Bar, Stourbridge Lower High Street between 11am and 5pm. They will also be available from Stour's War Memorial Ground from 7.30pm to 9.30pm on Thursday and again from the Milk Bar on Friday until 2pm.

Prices are £20 for adults, £17 for over-60s, £10 for under-21s and £5 for under-16s. Separate coach tickets are also on sale at the price of £10.

Sports lock out the Reds

Dudley Sports 2 Willenhall 1

THE Lockmen got no reward for their efforts after dominating long stretches of the West Midlands Premier match at Dudley Sports.

The visitors took the lead when Simon Laidley scored.

Within a minute, Sports were level when a hopeful ball down the left saw Tom Rann slip and Alex Welch raced on to score.

On 14 minutes, Sports struck again; this time a ball was played out right, 30 yards from goal, and Tom Overfield produced a stunning, dipping strike that flew right in the top right hand corner of Booth's net.

Both sides had plenty of chances to increase the scoreline in the second-half but neither did.

Yeltz squad rack up home win number eight

Halesowen Town 2 Mickleover Sports 1

Football

SECOND-placed Halesowen recorded an eighth successive home league win after hitting two goals within three minutes late in the first-half.

The Yeltz stood up to some robust challenges but soon settled with Iyseden Christie's 20th minute glancing header clawed onto the post by goalkeeper Chris Martin after Nigel Penney headed on.

Christie used his experience wisely throughout the game and his fierce 33rd minute shot from a tight angle was then saved well by Martin from Neil MacKenzie's neat threaded ball.

Man-of-the-match Christie soon smashed Halesowen into a 35th minute lead from the penalty spot after the ball flicked up – somewhat fortuitously – to strike a defender's arm.

Defender Joe Hull doubled Halesowen's advantage just three minutes later by powering home a header from a right wing free-kick.

With Halesowen in charge, Avun Jephcott nodded a great chance wide at the start of the second period and Christie flashed another low shot wide.

A competent Sports side had lacked a cutting edge but were given a lifeline when Karl Demidh slotted home a 70th minute penalty after Demidh was impeded by Asa Charlton.

Halesowen sat increasingly deep and defended en masse for the final minutes to cling onto a vital win. But they had a great escape when an equalising goal looked certain with two minutes remaining.

Ashley Grayson's shot beat home goalkeeper Matt Sargeant only for the ball to rebound off the far post and away from the pouncing Mickleover forwards, allowing Curtis Tilt to hack clear.

Halesowen Town: Matthew Sargeant; Kristian Green, Asa Charlton, Neil MacKenzie (Shane Grainger 90), Joe Hull (c), Curtis Tilt, Avun Jephcott, Tom Tonks (Jean Michel-Gueyes 41), Iyseden Christie, Nigel Penney (Matt Martin 68), Aaron Griffiths.

Unused Subs: Brendan Kelly, Sam Pearson (GK).

Mickleover Sports: Chris Martin; Kyle Bryant, Kevin Grocott, Liam Walshe (c), Dwayne Wiley (Jordan Hall 87), Nico DeGirolamo, Robert Richie-Smith (Danny Davidson 70), Ashley Grayson, Simon Oshoboke, Karl Demidh, Warren Hatfield.

Unused Subs: Joe Mansfield, Carl Slater, Joshua O'Brien.

OPTIMISM JUST NOT ENOUGH TO SAVE DK

Dudley K-ford 15 Sheffield Tigers 18

Rugby

FOLLOWING the team's encouraging display at Preston last weekend, there was an air of optimism at Heathbrook against fellow strugglers Sheffield Tigers.

DK made three changes from the side that travelled to Preston.

Nathaniel Mcdonald coming in on the wing and Al Francis and Dan Shakespeare returning to the front row.

Tom Outram opened the scoring for the Tigers with 38 metre penalty kick.

Three minutes later Kieran Pinches levelled things.

Gareth Bown received a yellow card for an elbow tackle and during this period of being reduced to 14, the home side played the better rugby.

Injured

Replacement for the injured Nat Mcdonald Ryan Smitherman with his first touch of the ball scored.

DK went into the break marginally ahead after Outram added three points.

After four minutes of the second half DK replaced Al Francis with Matt Humphries.

From a five metre scrimmage, the Tigers worked the blindside for Rupert Broadly to score wide out. The try went unconverted.

DK fought their way back into the game and on 58 minutes were rewarded.

From a scrum on the visitors 22 metre line a poor pass was fed along the ground where it was gathered by Ashley Oyekan who once again broke the visitor's defence to score under the posts. Kieran Pinches added the extra points.

On 61 minutes DK received their second yellow card when Matt Squires was dismissed for not releasing the ball at a ruck.

The Tigers kicked for position. However, in their attempt to drive over the DK line they knocked on.

At the five metre scrum the ball squirted out of the side of the DK scrum and was picked up by open side flanker David Bradford who crossed the home side's line to score unopposed, Outram converted.

During the final, frantic 10 minutes DK made two changes.

Kieran Pinches was replaced by Liam Marshall and Sam Pedley replaced Danny Hawkins.

This final period was riddled with errors and it's understandable both sides are propping up the league.

DK forced a lineout on the Tigers five metre line. The ball was not thrown in straight and in the resulting scrum Mr Kirby penalised DK for deliberately wheeling the scrum. The visitors' final act was to kick for touch and end the game.

One of DK's try scorers Ryan Smitherman wrong foots the defence during their home match against Sheffield Tigers

First time clash is a shutout

Birmingham Medics 0 Halesowen Town Ladies 7

THIS was the first time Halesowen had met Birmingham Medics.

The return of Lyndsey Glover after a long injury and Hannah Troman after missing last week through injury meant Halesowen had a strong squad.

Rachel Letford played a great ball to Sophie Richards who put it in the net after just 15 minutes.

Three minutes after the first goal Sophie passed the ball to Hayley Chatwin who got the second.

Central defenders Charlotte Byatt and Lauren Gilbert snubbed out any attacks the Medics attempted.

Sian Whittall got a chance to score following a beautiful cross from Katie Moore and she put Halesowen 3-0 up.

In the second half Moore was next on the score sheet.

Glover then scored two goals one after the other, both fed in from Moore, giving the Yeltz six and dominating the Medics in the final third of the pitch.

The ladies were enjoying the game and the Medics barely had a look in and it was down to Byatt to finish the scoring.

Heathens stay in National League

SPEEDWAY champions Dudley will, as expected, stay in the National League for 2014.

Many fans would like to see the former Cradley club join the Premier League, the sport's second tier.

But Heathens bosses have maintained that such a move would only happen if they find their own track and quit Monmore Green.

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